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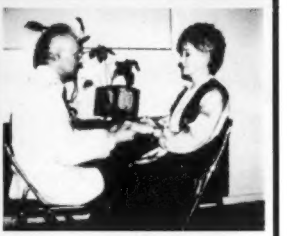

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January 1992 Vol. 45 • No. 1 Issue 502

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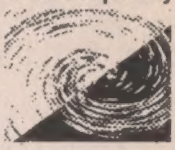
By observing the effects of gravity on the galaxies of the universe it becomes clear that there should be more matter than we can see. Where is it? Perhaps there are ghost galaxies.



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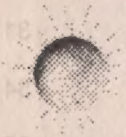

The phenomenon known as ball lightning still intrigues the scientific world. When it appears before you it is even more intriguing!

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That there are unusual creatures, waiting to be discovered, is a major tenet held by cryptozoologists. But there are creatures even stranger than those...

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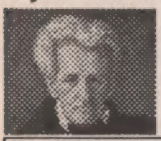

The record of a spirit—perhaps the most amazing one in the history of Spiritualism. This "Witch" was strong, copied voices and even challenged Andrew Jackson.

NOTICE TO READERS: All articles in FATE are true and are verified by documentation and/or notarized statements. Comments made in columns, *Report From the Readers* or in articles where they are obviously the ideas of the writer, are the opinions of the writers and may not represent the opinion of FATE magazine and Llewellyn Worldwide, Ltd.

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• Yes, contrary to popular belief you *can* be hypnotized against your will! We will bring you a complete report.

• Astrology works! Learn about its history and how to interpret your own chart.

• Puerto Rico seems like a quiet island, but is really a hotbed of UFO activity. Learn the full details in an upcoming issue.

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—Psychic Frontiers
—Astro Almanac
—Book Reviews
—Report From the Readers
—True Mystic Experiences
—My Proof of Survival
—Reader of the Month

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I SEE BY THE PAPERS

By Donald Michael Kraig

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

...we're an ally of organized religion, [our purpose being] to suppress...independent visions of what nature is like."

—Daniel Sabsay

You are probably wondering who Mr. Sabsay is and what his organization is. In the quote above, taken from the (Berkeley) *Daily Californian* of September 27, 1991, he makes several claims which need to be addressed.

Donald Michael Kraig

First, considering Mr. Sabsay's organization, it is interesting that he would say that he is an ally of organized religion. The organization that he is president of has attacked religion in the past.

Second, Mr. Sabsay makes the claim that both his organization and organized religion want to suppress "independent visions of what nature is like." Curiously, although his organization claims to be scientific in orientation, he offers no proof that organized religion is involved in this alleged suppression of "independent visions" of nature. Organized religion, after all, is more involved not with nature—our physical world—but what occurs beyond nature and our reaction to it within nature.

Third, his organization usually *claims* to be open to scientific investigation of the unusual, not its suppression.

But who should know the organization better than Mr. Sabsay, president of the Berkeley, California, East Bay Skeptic Society?

So, the truth of the attitude of the skeptics is now out. They do not merely want to help people think scientifically (that is, their way), they want to suppress your opportunity to even hear about what other people think!

If the skeptics, as exemplified by president Sabsay, had been triumphant in the past in suppressing independent visions of nature, we would still have textbooks claiming that the Sun,

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Moon and planets revolve around the Earth and that a sterile environment during surgery was unnecessary.

True, I am dealing with just one quote. So let's look at another: "We feel creationism damages people's thinking process—it makes people incapable of producing first-class science." So obviously, he would like to suppress creationism.

We would have to disagree. The nature of science is to investigate alternate possibilities, not suppress them. It is only through that investigation that new discoveries develop. No, we do not agree with creationism. But we do not think it should be suppressed. Rather, we think it should be explored. If creationism is wrong and evolution correct then *every claim made by those believing in creationism should be disprovable by those who believe in evolution.* If the believers in evolution cannot do this they need to change the theory. But suppression? We will never support it. We will never condone it. We will continue to speak out against all who would suppress true science and the scientific method in the name of any particular belief or "ism." In the words of Carl Sagan (quoted in *New Sense Bulletin*), "It is the responsibility of scientists never to suppress knowledge, no matter how awkward that knowledge

is, no matter how it may bother those in power. We are not smart enough to decide which pieces of knowledge are permissible and which are not."

Perhaps Mr. Sabsay, who is quoted as saying that, "Astrology is a self-delusional system. Its central premise is demonstrably false." never read *sTARBABY* (FATE, October 1981). In that article FATE exposed how the archetypal skeptical group, CSICOP, tried to disprove one aspect of astrology, couldn't do so, then altered the results to make it appear that they had succeeded.

The bottom line: debunkers (they're not really skeptics who, by definition, have an open but unconvinced mind) are not scientific. They want to suppress what they don't agree with and what threatens their narrow viewpoints. And they may be willing to stop you from getting information.

TESTING A NEW RELIGION

One of Japan's fastest growing religious sects, according to the *Wall Street Journal*, is the Institute for Research and Human Happiness. The founder of the 1.5 million member sect, Ryuho Okawa, claims to be the reincarnation of the Greek god Hermes and of Buddha. He claims to have talked with Jesus Christ, Pablo Picasso and Sir Isaac Newton.

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tion toward happiness—intellect, self-reflection, development and love. Devotees purchase their founder's books (27,000,000 of his 130 titles are in print) and study them, as well as his cassette tapes. They advance through seven spiritual levels by passing exams on the books.

Considering the amount of money Mr. Okawa is making, he has several detractors. Besides reaping in millions in profits, one must wonder how passing a written test moves you through spiritual levels.

More importantly, however, is the effect they are having on Japanese culture. Traditionally, Japanese religious groups try to avoid publicity. The institute revels in it, taking out newspaper and television commercials and even hiring a blimp to fly over Tokyo with their message.

Think of them what you may, they are already making a big change in Japanese life.

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continued on page 12

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continued from page 9

devices that make them work, is that there is a limit as to how small you can get.

Now a group of researchers at Syracuse University have reported that they are able to store and retrieve information from a tiny block made of the protein *bacteriorhodapsin*, a substance derived from a bacteria found in salt marshes. Six small cubes of this material, each a mere one-centimeter to a side, could store the entire Library of Congress.

It will still be many years before the computer industry will be able to take advantage of this discovery.

SUBLIMINALS A FAKE?

In spite of claims made by anti-rock-and-roll activists and in spite of the claims made by promoters of tapes with subliminal messages, the National Research Council believes that subliminal messages such as those found in self-help tapes don't work. But the report, as described in *USA Today*, seems so contradictory that we must wonder what the story is all about.

For example, they report that "mental imaging and other relaxation methods are effective ways to manage pain." Thus, the NRC agrees with what healers have been saying for centuries.

They also say that "Meditation

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is no more effective at reducing stress or blood pressure than resting quietly." With this we must agree. But only one group, in an attempt to de-spiritualize meditation, has ever focused on that idea. The reduction of stress and blood pressure is merely a side benefit of meditation. The real goal of meditation is to tune into your higher self. This is covered in books that explain real meditation. So if you want to reduce stress, rest quietly. If you want to follow a spiritual practice which reduces stress and blood pressure as an extra benefit, try meditation.

It seems, therefore, that the people who put forward this information have a particular agenda that they wish to push upon the public.

What sort of group wants to suppress differing ideas? I don't want to sound paranoid, but look at the following information:

• At the May 1991 CSICOP conference, three speakers spoke against the effectiveness of subliminals.

• According to an letter sent to us by Dr. Michael Urban, Eric Eich allegedly used information from two other people to prepare the NRC report. Eich was one of the speakers at the CSICOP conference.

• The two people Eich allegedly got his information from were Anthony Pratkanis and Timothy

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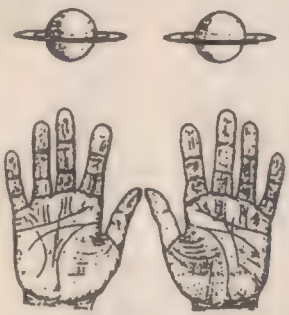

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Moore. They just happened to be the other two speakers at the CSICOP conference.

As I said, I don't like to sound paranoid. Nor do I easily agree with conspiracy theories. But is it possible that the research was tainted by a preconceived desire not to believe? Is it possible that the entire report is nothing but an attempt by CSICOP (or people who are in agreement with the views of CSICOP) to suppress the truth? Is it possible that CSICOP is a threat to scientific freedom? I have a hard time believing such implications.

Urban alleges that Moore is being funded by Seagram's Liquor. I certainly don't think that using a subliminal tape to relax would be a threat to a company which might want you to use liquor to help you relax. Nor do I feel that they would promote a questionable study to make you ignore the subliminals they allegedly use in their ads.

If you are interested in the truth about subliminals, Dr. Urban advises the book *Subliminal Treatment Procedures: A Clinician's Guide* (Erlbaum, 1991). This, he claims, is a collection of 10 years worth of research findings in the field.

Let me say here that the parent company of FATE magazine, Llewellyn Worldwide, Ltd., has published some subliminal tapes.

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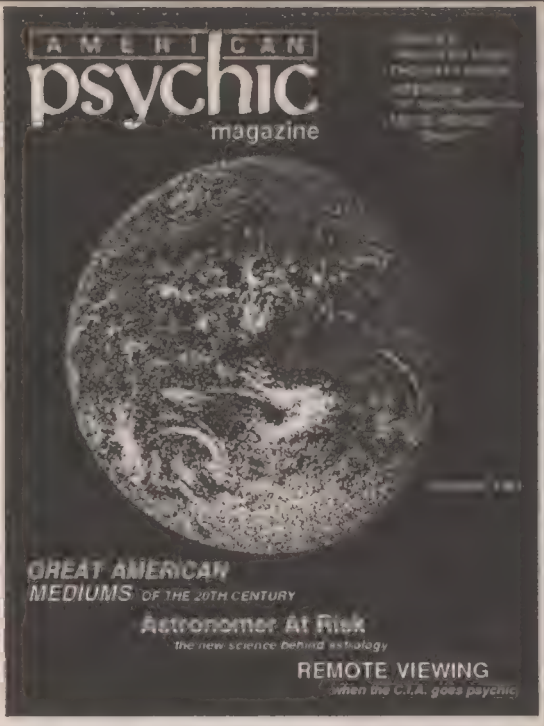

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They have been a small but important part or our business. Contrary to the questionable findings of the NRC, many studies indicate that subliminal messages do work. On the other hand, some tapes which call themselves subliminals either are not subliminals or use technology without any sort of scientific verification of effectiveness (such as the 50,000 messages-per-minute tapes). Likewise, there is no proof that a subliminal message played backward has any effect on the listener. One manufacturer even produced tapes with subaudible messages (ones you can't hear) and sold them as subliminal tapes (where the messages may be heard but are hidden so your conscious does not take note of them).

Furthermore, the process of adjusting your behavior goes on continuously. If you spend ten minutes listening to a tape and the rest of the day giving yourself opposing messages, the result of not achieving your goal is inevitable.

Subliminal tapes can be a very powerful *aid* in changing your behavior. They work hand in hand with a conscious desire to change and other forms of therapy.

Perhaps the worst part of this mess is that it leaves us wondering how many errors may be in other Council "reports."

∞

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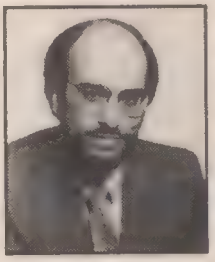
PSYCHIC FRONTIERS

By Loyd Auerbach

PSYCHIC DREAMING

This past summer my second book was released. In this book (*Psychic Dreaming: A Parapsychologist's Handbook*) I ventured into an area where I originally had a limited knowledge, although the subject was in my field of specialization. *Psychic Dreaming* is the second in a projected series of books (I'm hard at work on the third title right now).



Loyd Auerbach

My own working background is in spontaneous instances of psi as it appears in a variety of experiences. I am better known as a "ghostbuster" but I have studied psi in areas other than apparitions, poltergeists and hauntings. While psychic dreams are included in this wider area, I originally knew more about the psychic aspect than about the dream aspect.

One can learn a lot about a subject while writing a book on it. I ended up spending a good deal of time and energy in an attempt to make *Psychic Dreaming* a book that covers a good deal of the current studies and information about dreams and psychic dreams.

Dreams provide particularly fertile ground for psi information to appear as most of our guards are down and our normal senses are effectively cut off. Unfortunately, studying psi in dreams provides some problems as well, not the least of which is remembering the dream itself. In this article I will briefly address both the ups and downs of dreams as a form of experience or consciousness for us to study with respect to psi. For more information I would point you towards my book which includes a good book list for further reading.

WHAT IS A DREAM?

Let's put dreams in perspective for a moment. When we sleep we go through certain sleep stages. These stages are repeated through the sleep cycle, though

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with a slight difference after the first occurrence. We pass through a couple of light stages of sleep into the deeper stages three and four. Each stage is characterized by certain physiological conditions. Then we rise out of the deeper stages into REM (Rapid Eye Movement) sleep. This is followed by a repeating pattern of drifting back into the deeper stages and out again throughout the sleep period. Each one of these repeating patterns is approximately 90 minutes in length. It is during the stage where REM occurs that we dream.

While dreaming the body is characterized by movements of the eyes (hence REM) and a certain amount of paralysis of the body. This is necessary—as we dream certain neurons fire in the body which would cause physical reactions were we not effectively paralyzed. This explains why we may occasionally wake suddenly from a dream and find an arm or leg so "asleep" that it can barely be felt. In non-REM sleep we would have moved the limb before this occurred.

There are many theories today about what dreams really are. This includes the traditional views of Freud, Jung and other psychologists (and I'm generalizing here with respect to the various schools of psychological thought) that dreams are related to uncon-

scious wishes, desires and unresolved issues.

Another view is that of J. Allan Hobson of Harvard University who believes dreams are a result of the survival mechanism of the body. He claims that the neurons fire randomly to keep the mechanism of the body working well. The dreams themselves are a means by which the brain tries to create a story to fit the particular firing pattern of the neurons. In other words, if the neurons which indicate walking fire the signal is incorporated into a dream—you find yourself walking. This view is the opposite of saying that the neurons fire as a result of a dream.

Francis Crick (one of the unravellers of DNA) and Graeme Michison of Cambridge University have an even more mechanistic view. In the early 1980s they presented the theory that perhaps dreaming is a way by which the brain processes out unwanted and unneeded information. They believe that it may not be healthy to remember your dreams. Many dream workers would disagree with this (as do I).

There are many more views of dreaming. Many cultures, both past and present, believe that dreams may not only be a window into the unconscious, but also lead to states of higher consciousness, a connection to the

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soul or ties to spirits or to God or gods. It would seem that there are as many theories of what dreams are as there are theories describing what psi is.

FERTILE GROUND FOR PSI

Dreams seem to be a very good place for us to look for psi-mediated information. While in the dream state our minds effectively create experience based on *internal* information (or so it appears). There can be some impact on our sleeping/dreaming consciousness due to an alarm clock going off or a truck rumbling by. For the most part, however, the imagery and perceptions within the dream do not rely on our normal, externally-oriented senses as do our perceptions when we are awake.

So dreaming is a time when we are in a form of deprivation from our external senses. Parapsychologists believe that our innate psi abilities scan the environment at all times but it really only gets noticed by our conscious minds when the psi signal is loud enough to get past the noise of our waking senses. If, while dreaming, this noise is gone, the psi signal may be effectively stronger. It may be incorporated into a dream as the only external information capable of getting into our minds.

continued on page 27

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continued from page 22

In addition, while dreaming we have different views of the world. Our ingrained inhibitions against psi—especially those learned as we grow up—are lowered if not dropped completely. After all, just about anything can, and often does, happen while we explore the dreamscape.

LUCID DREAMING AND PSI

In the special form of dreaming known as lucid dreaming (characterized by an awareness that we are dreaming and controlling the dream) we may be able to force the issue. In the lucid dream state the dreamer could allow himself or herself to become psychic and focus his or her attention on the outer world. If you find yourself in a lucid dream you might wish yourself to be clairvoyant and peek in on a friend or suggest to yourself that you have an out-of-body experience and visit some other country you've always wanted to go to.

THE DIFFICULTIES

While there have been a number of detailed studies of psi in dreams (most notably those performed years ago at the Maimonides Medical Center and written up in *Dream Telepathy: Experiments in Nocturnal ESP* by Montague Ullman and Stanley Krippner with Alan Vaughan) there has

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always been one main difficulty in working with psychic dreams: you can't always remember them.

In sleep labs this is remedied by waking the sleeping subject up while he or she is in REM, thereby increasing the immediacy of the recall of the dream. In our non-lab lives, recalling dreams is not as easy. Dream recall, luckily, is something we can work on and improve.

Along with this is the embellishment of the dream by our conscious minds. As we struggle to remember a dream once we awaken, our conscious minds often try to label and categorize images. This may effectively pigeon-hole pieces from the dream in incorrect ways. Further, if there is a piece missing we may fill it in rather than remember an incomplete picture. Again, this problem can be overcome to a great degree.

Another more important problem is the question, "How do I know if the dream is a psychic one?" The problem is one of separating psi-mediated information from the more creative content of the dream, aspects which may relate more to our memory and internal creative process than any external, psi-derived information. If you dream of a disaster, is it a precognitive or clairvoyant dream of a real incident or a replay (with some creative changes) of an event you saw on the news

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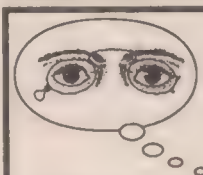

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DREAMING OF SOLUTIONS?

To deal with the second problem first, according to people who have psychic dreams there is often some qualitative difference between the imagery in a normal dream and that of a psychic one. The dream seems more real, more vibrant than other dreams, even ones with similar content. Such qualitative differences also appear in lucid dreams, but the dreamer doesn't make the connection that the dream somehow relates to reality.

There are basically two ways people know their dreams are psi-oriented. First, they may realize the dream had psi content once they've learned the dream relates to a real incident, one they couldn't possibly have known about. The second relates to that qualitative difference—the dreamer just "knows" that the dream is different.

If this appears to be an incomplete explanation, it is. There just may not be words to describe the experience. As an analogy, try explaining color to someone who has been blind since birth.

As to the first problem, that of remembering your dreams, this is a bit easier to resolve. First, dream experts suggest that the *intent* to recall one's dreams is essential. Telling yourself repeatedly that you *will* remember at least one dream per night—especially just before you fall asleep—can help with the process. Keeping a journal of those dreams, either written or on tape, not only reinforces the intent to recall more dreams, it also allows you to go back over your dreams in order to look for patterns and for event-related (perhaps psi-mediated) information.

When you begin your journal simply jot down or record any and all impressions and images you remember from the dream, trying not to label or categorize them until after you've gotten it all down (This is sound advice for *any* psychic experience you have). That picture of what looks like the Eiffel Tower is limited when you label it as such. In reality it could be an electric power tower. With this type of practice you should be able to overcome the embellishment issue.

A CONCLUSION, FOR NOW...

Working with psychic dreams and the information they may provide is possible. In this article I've provided some background. In my next column I will discuss not only how to deal with psychic information that may occur in your dream but also how you might try a few dream psi experiments of your own.

∞

BEYOND THE KNOWN

By John Keel

THIS IS WHERE I CAME IN

"What's going to happen next?" That's the question most often asked by people who have been following weird events for years. Strange cycles are followed by the forces which distort our reality and have us running around in circles looking for sea serpents, ufos and giant hailstones. Just when we think we have found a significant pattern and are about to solve a baffling mystery, everything changes and we are off on another wild goose chase. The phenomena always stay one step ahead of us.

John Keel

We have gone through many cycles in the past 40 years and a few of us have even learned something about the real nature of the unreal. It is doubtful that we will ever make any real gains, however. We can only second-guess the enigmatic system that controls these events. We will certainly face many surprises in the 1990s.

Here are some learned predictions of coming events. They are based upon analyses of the oftensilly little cosmic games played out in the recent past.

AN INVASION OF THE MONSTERS

1) Every few years we have a new monster wave that grips the attention of the press and public. Remember Momo, Lizardman and old Three Toes? They were terrific monsters but now they're has-beens. I predict that a new monster will pop up in the next two-to-five years that will really make them look like sissies.

We are about due for a new dinosaur wave. Some kind of gigantic saurian is going to appear in a remote area, gobble up a few cows and scare the daylights out of a lot of people. Local police will form posses and helicopters will search the area in vain. Television anchors will rush

to the spot and sit sheepishly in some swamp waiting for the critter to reappear. UFO buffs will also flock there and make sober pronouncements about dinosaurs from outer space. All of this could take place somewhere in the South, possibly in Georgia or Louisiana.

NOT OUT OF GAS

2) Back in the early 1930s there was an epidemic of automobile stallings. Long lines of cars on busy highways would mysteriously stall simultaneously and create colossal traffic jams. In Germany they tried to blame it on experimental television stations. In Italy the great Marconi was accused of tampering with radio frequencies that could stall ignition systems. In the U.S. the usual "experts" (who are these meatballs?) announced that sunspots were the cause.

We now know what really causes some of these stallings. The electromagnetic pulse (EMP) of a nuclear blast can produce the effect. The widespread power failures and communication failures of the 1960s were caused by the EMP from atmospheric bomb tests, particularly those in China. By the late 1960s, Ma Bell had spent millions taking down the telephone poles that dotted the countryside and burying all the telephone lines underground to counter the problem. They also developed "tempest shielding," a way of insulating sensitive equipment from EMP.

U.S. military forces, with their usual keen grasp of the situation, dealt with the threat of EMP by equipping all of our tanks, ships and planes with transistorized computers and communications. Transistors are particularly susceptible to EMP and a blast 200 miles away can cause them to malfunction. The Soviets, on the other hand, were also aware of the problem and continued to use old-fashioned radio tubes in their equipment because tubes are less vulnerable to EMP.

Modern automobiles are now loaded with transistors and are likely to be affected by EMP more than ever. Stories of mysterious stallings are already trickling in. I predict that in the near future wholesale stallings will begin to occur. They will not be caused by nuclear blasts, though. They will be caused by the much-publicized breakdown of the ozone layer and natural bombardments of cosmic rays and energy from the Sun.

MARS OR BUST

3) On the negative side, here's a prediction about space travel. You've been hearing a great deal about a planned manned space shot to the planet Mars. The idea

is to send six people—three men and three women—to Mars within the next 30 years. I have followed space developments closely all my life and wrote many articles about NASA, Dr. Goddard (the rocket pioneer), etc., back in the early 1960s. At one point I was even scheduled to take the basic astronaut training to collect material for a piece for *True* magazine. It didn't work out so I let Neil Armstrong go in my place.

Seeing Earth men and women on Mars has been a dream of mine...of all of us...since Buck Rogers and Flash Gordon started zooming around the universe. But now I regret that I must predict that it will never happen. The problems seem insurmountable. The design and construction of a Mars ship will be too costly. Our economic and political problems are just too overwhelming.

Remember, President Nixon slashed the space program to pieces back in the early 1970s, putting many scientists and engineers out of work permanently. We have just been using up the hardware that was ordered during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations. The Soviets are now way ahead of us in space, and several other countries are there as well. (Did you know that the Japanese have a satellite orbiting the Moon?) Space travel once again seems like a far-fetched dream. We'll keep sending up satellites and maybe a space station or two, but it may be centuries before humans return to the Moon or venture further out to Mars and beyond.

"HI, UNCLE CHARLIE. WHAT'S IT LIKE BEING DEAD?"

4) It has often been observed that all electronic equipment is prone to interference by the invisible forces that surround us. Telephones, tape recorders, television sets and even computers can become "haunted." The literature on ghosts, UFOs and the occult is filled with accounts of this mysterious interference. The evidence is so vast that it is safe to conclude that electrical energy can be—and often is—manipulated to support various belief systems and frames of reference. Images of deceased persons have appeared on television sets in Europe. Voices claiming to come from distant planets have been picked up on radios.

As our dependence on electronic gadgets increases, so does this interference. Experimenters scattered around the world are learning to communicate directly with these forces; forces that previously had to rely on persons with rare psychic abilities.

I predict that we are about to enter an age when anyone, any-

where (with the proper electronic gear), can communicate at will with forces or entities beyond the range of our limited human perceptions. This could happen in less than 10 years. This could be a far more important breakthrough than a mere trip to Mars!

These forces cannot seem to deal with solid matter in our material world but they—or *It*—can juggle electrons.

There is a warning connected with this, though. Aeons of spirit mediums, wizards, Witches and psychics have learned that there is a very mischievous energy at work here. It plays games with us, tells terrible lies and creates fearful but meaningless apparitions. Many of our most cherished beliefs are based on these games and those lies. Now that a magic door is being opened electronically between our two worlds we must proceed with great caution. In the past we learned we could not trust our own senses. Now we must learn we can't trust our electronic gadgets, either.

That voice coming through your Walkman may not really be your late Uncle Charlie.

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PSYCHIC EXPERIENCES OF THE STARS

By Wyn Esselborn

• Mabel Normand, top comedienne of Hollywood's early movies, would relate with wonder a paranormal brush on February 1, 1922. Paying a quick visit to director-actor-charmer William Desmond Taylor, a long-time friend, she found him "wire taut." He remarked that he had a "most ghastly" premonition that something terrible was about to happen to him.

He was fatally shot that evening. The case remains unsolved.

•Mary Pickford, the movie star known as "America's Sweetheart" in the 1900s, claimed a mysterious inner voice sometimes warned her of tragedy in the offing. Once, as her brother was leaving her home, the voice told her it was "the last time" that she would see him.

Her brother died shortly afterward in Paris, 1933.

• On January 19, 1945, Elsa Maxwell—famed party thrower of post World War I and II's international society saw light going past President Roosevelt's head that made it resemble a skull. As a result, on April 8, 1945, she told Bess Truman that her husband would become president before April 25.

F.D.R. died on April 12.

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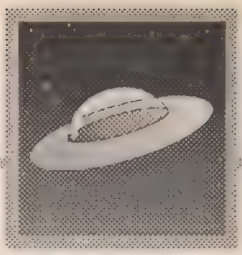
UFO Reporter



By Jerome Clark

STRANGE LIFE, STRANGE TIMES

When he died in Long Beach, California, in January 1986, the world had forgotten Michel d'Obrenovic. Those who still remembered were surprised to hear of his death because they had not known he was alive. One published account had even reported his passing years earlier. The man who wrote the account, James W. Moseley of *Saucer News*, stated bluntly that it would be hypocritical of him to express regrets, since he had never been able to tolerate the man. Before he lapsed into obscurity, Michel d'Obrenovic roused those sorts of passions. If you didn't love him, you hated him. If you didn't think he was a courageous scientist, you deemed him a shameless charlatan.

Jerome Clark

In the 1950s he was one of the best known, and among the most controversial, figures in the newly emerging field of...well, d'Obrenovic was not exactly a ufologist. Early ufologists defined themselves as serious inquirers, trying to use science, reason, and (where necessary, as it often was) skepticism to unravel the UFO mystery. But to d'Obrenovic and others who arrived in his wake, UFOs were no mystery. They were spaceships piloted by kindly extraterrestrials who sometimes dropped in for extended conversations with receptive Earthlings, including d'Obrenovic.

Until 1959, when he changed his name back to that of his family's—supposedly the d'Obrenovics were descendants of Yugoslavian royalty—Michel d'Obrenovic was George Hunt Williamson. Now, four decades after his emergence into public view, he seems to have been a pioneer of sorts, a man who anticipated later UFO, occult, and pop-culture obsessions. He was also a strange, complex man who seems at once to have been a liar and a believer, someone who is impos-

sible to paint in either black or white.

Born in Chicago on December 9, 1926, Williamson developed an early interest in anthropology (especially as it related to American Indian Nations) and in psychic phenomena, which he believed he had experienced on many occasions. By 1950 he had taken up residence on Chippewa and Sioux reservations in Minnesota and North Dakota. He was especially interested in the supernatural traditions of these tribes. He also read the first books on flying saucers.

He was convinced, as he would write later, that the " 'saucers' existed in the tales of almost all the American Indian tribes and even in the legends of so-called primitive people all over the world!" Williamson was also fond of exclamation points, which would be nearly as numerous as periods in the many thousands of sentences he would write over the next 10 years.

In 1952 Williamson and his then-wife Betty moved to Prescott, Arizona, where he delivered a spiritual message from the Chippewa to the Hopi, who then initiated him into their Nation. Williamson soon came to believe that Hopi legends indicated a special relationship with extraterrestrials. He later asserted that they *were* extraterrestrials; the Hopi migrated to the Earth, he wrote, from two planets, Mars and "Maldek-Malona...today known as the Asteroid Belt."

MASAR CALLING SARAS

Meanwhile the Williamsons had befriended fellow occultists Al and Betty Bailey of Winslow, Arizona. The two couples experimented with automatic writing and a ouija board; soon they were communicating with "Nah-9 of Solar X Group" and other space people. Nah-9, who hailed from Mars ("Masar"), warned, "There will soon be a destructive blast to be felt on Saras [Earth]. This is of your own manufacture. Evil planetary men, who abound, will attempt contact with evil men of Saras for destruction!"

Another ET, Zo of Neptune, had an equally electrifying message: The ETs were going to "transmit on 340 kc. to 405 kc. with International Morse Code 8-22-52 at 7 miles altitude." Bailey, who worked on the Santa Fe Railroad, was instructed to contact fellow worker Lyman Streeter, a ham radio buff, for guidance in how to pick up the signals.

Streeter would claim that on the evening of August 22 he spotted strange lights over Winslow as peculiar signals sounded at 400 kc. Around that time Streeter and his wife Susan, along with Bailey, heard, or thought they

heard, "the mysterious code... coming from the very air itself!" At 2 A.M. the code came through the radio.

There commenced, over the next weeks, a series of communications, including warnings about evil ETs from Orion and their earthly allies and about an impending apocalypse, from an assortment of oddly named space people from the solar system and beyond.

Badly frightened, Williamson alerted friends and associates, including a missionary in Guatemala. On October 16 he wrote this man and declared *"time is very, very short! ...*Disaster will come before Dec. 1st, *this year!"* Within two or three weeks a "special ship direct from Mars" would land nearby. Williamson added, "Professor George Adamski is in on this too. He is a very great man, indeed.

A VENUSIAN CALLED ORTHON

Williamson learned of "Professor" (the title was an honorary one, bestowed on him by followers) Adamski while reading Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer's 1952 book, *The Coming of the Saucers*, which mentioned Adamski's photographs of alleged UFOs. He initiated a correspondence with Adamski and not long afterwards began visiting him at Palomar Gardens, California, where Adamski, a metaphysical teacher of many years' standing, held court. Soon the Williamsons and the Baileys were making the trek regularly between northern Arizona and southern California, and as a consequence, because they were there on November 20, 1952, they secured a permanent place in occult history.

The following year he and Bailey wrote and published *The Saucers Speak!*, an account of their electronic and psychic communications with Nah-9, Regga, Zo, Um, Affa, and other garrulous off-worlders.

For many years Adamski confided to his new associates that he had channeled messages from Tibetan lamas. But in recent years extraterrestrials had replaced them, though the messages remained the same. The Williamsons and the Baileys witnessed some of these channelings, which Adamski—who would emphatically disavow psychic contacts in his later career as a flying saucer prophet—insisted be kept secret.

In one of them the space people promised a face-to-face meeting when the time was right.

On November 18, Adamski phoned Williamson to say the time was right; the meeting would take place two days hence. On the morning of the 20th the two Arizona couples met with Adamski and two associates in Blythe, a small town on the California side of the California-Arizona border town. The seven set off into the desert.

What happened then would prove to be the subject of endless controversy for years to come. According to the story told by Adamski and believed by contactee-oriented saucerians, Adamski would split from the group, see a disc-shaped craft land, and communicate with its occupant, a handsome Venusian named Orthon. The other six would watch all this from a distance and swear to it in an affidavit which would appear the following year in Adamski and Desmond Leslie's *Flying Saucers Have Landed.*

Of course to those incapable of believing that Venus (which has a surface temperature of something like 900 degrees F.) harbors human life, the claim was manifestly absurd. In any case, eventually Al Bailey retracted his testimony, and ufologist Jim Moseley, who conducted an extensive investigation, uncovered other damaging information. (For a full account of Adamski's career, see my recently published book *The Emergence of a Phenomenon: UFOs from the Beginning Through 1959.*)

For his part Williamson would stick by the account, except to say privately that whereas Adamski reported only the most rudimentary telepathic contact with Orthon, in fact (if "fact" is the appropriate word here) there had been an extensive psychic interchange. Williamson thought Adamski's waffling on this point had to do with his public disavowal of the psychic.

On the other hand, Williamson would also confide to a young friend, Ray Stanford, that the account in *Landed* notwithstanding, he and the other "witnesses" saw no more than Adamski and a human figure in the distance; the detailed sketch of the Venusian on page 209 of the book was a "fake" Williamson said, according to Stanford, that "they could not see that kind of detail even with binoculars."

In any case, the Williamsons, who had recently moved to Palomar Gardens, were noticing disturbing changes in Adamski's behavior. He was secretive, distant, not always truthful, and he was relentlessly critical of Williamson's own contacts, mostly psychic in nature. He urged Williamson not to write about

them; he, Adamski, would do all the channeling that needed to be done.

SAUCERS SPEAK, EARTHLINGS LISTEN!

Unwilling to conceal his metaphysical orientation or his fascination with the theories of occultist N. Meade Layne, Williamson went off on his own. In 1953 he wrote one of the very first books about what in the 1970s would be called "ancient astronauts." The manuscript, unpublished until 1957, was titled *Other Tongues—Other Flesh*. In it Williamson, who presented himself as a trained anthropologist and archaeologist, wedded contactee metaphysics to occult lore and Immanuel Velikovsky's disputed cosmological theories.

The following year he and Bailey wrote and published *The Saucers Speak!*, an account of their electronic and psychic communications with Nah-9, Regga, Zo, Um, Affa, and other garrulous offworlders. Before he was through, Williamson would be at the forefront of the contactee movement—a world spokesman for the space people and, next to Adamski, the most controversial figure on the UFO scene.

Next month, in the conclusion of this examination of Williamson's extraordinary career, we will show his hidden but enormous influence on modern UFOdom's looniest—and most dangerous—ideas.

∞

YOU CANNOT BEAT DUMB LUCK

By John Ellis Sech

Tom Sawyer had never supported the Florida State Lottery. He voted against it and he wouldn't be caught dead buying a ticket. So how in the world did he become the lottery's first million dollar winner?

"You cannot beat dumb luck," quipped Sawyer.

Sawyer found his winning ticket in the street in front of his paint store. He scratched the ticket's covering off to find the word "ENTRY" written three times on the card. Sawyer mailed the ticket to lottery headquarters for the million-dollar drawing, just one of 460,000 eligible entries. Sawyer's ticket was chosen.

Sawyer announced that he would donate 10 per cent of his winnings to his church. Would he risk any of the remaining 90 per cent on playing the lottery?

"If I had $5 that I was going to spend I'd rather go to a 2-hour movie than spend a minute and a half scratching off five tickets."

∞

READER OF THE MONTH

Myrna Lee
2-2 Lien Yun St.
Taipei, Taiwan 10623
R.O.C.

I have been in the FATE family for over 10 years.

My name is Myrna Lee (Lee Chieh-shu). I have four brothers and three sisters. I studied literature in college and have also learned English, German and French.

I moved to Taiwan in 1949 and am still living in Taipei, Taiwan. I worked for a Sino-American organization for over 20 years as administrative assistant and am working now as foreign affairs advisor for a private concern.

My hobbies are music, reading, painting and travelling. I have travelled to Europe 14 times and to the U.S.A. eight times. Of course, that doesn't even count the numberless times I've been to Hong Kong and other places.

I like classical music much better than the current modern music. I play a little piano.

Reading is my favorite pastime I can sit for days without moving when I am reading a good book.

After office hours I am a painter of Chinese pictures such as birds and flowers, scenery and people.

I don't know why I like FATE, but it fascinates me. I have read many Buddhist publications and the FATE writings seem relevant to Buddhist philosophy. Do you agree?

I like to have pen pals in order to learn something about different manners and customs.

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Reader of the Month submissions should be under 250 words and typed. Tell us about yourself, what people should know about you (likes, dislikes, etc.), why you like FATE and how FATE has affected you. **You *must* include your photo and give us permission to publish your name and address.** Mail to FATE Reader of the Month, P.O. Box 64383 St. Paul MN 55164-0383. Include a stamped, self-addressed return envelope. After publication FATE pays $10.00 to each *published* Reader of the Month.

OUR STRANGE WORLD

By Mark Chorvinsky

THE PLIGHT OF THE "MEXICAN WOLF BOYS"

Gabriel and Victor Gomez, of Loreto, Mexico, have a rare hereditary condition called *hypertrichosis universalis* that has caused them to be covered with hair, giving them appearances much like the classic "Wolfman" of the movies. For some years the hirsute youngsters have been at the center of some controversy. They are now a part of a circus and appear to be truly happy—certainly more so than when they were being bullied at school due to their highly unusual appearance. Mr. Mundo Campa, head of the touring Mexican circus that the boys perform in, stated that, "One day they went to the circus and liked it. Like others before them they ran away to join it." Victor is part of a of a comedy act and Gabriel works as a sound crewperson.

Mark Chorvinsky

Even though both boys are seemingly quite happy being part of the circus there were complaints about "Los Niños Lobos" —the wolf children— when they appeared in Blackpool, England. Animal Welfare Alliance coordinator David Brown opined that the brothers should not be on display but rather "should be in a hospital or in a home." As a result of pressure from Brown and others, including local County Council Leader Louise Ellman, the boys were banned from performing.

The Gomez brothers begged local officials to let them perform. The British *Evening Gazette* held a telephone poll and of 714 callers, 602 thought that the Mexican Wolf Boys had a right to work for the circus. In late July, 1991, the ban was lifted after public sentiment was clearly in favor of the brothers' right to work and perform.

The hairy Gomez boys are just the latest in a long line of hairy people who have become well

known through performing. From the earliest times, hairy people have been standard circus and sideshow fare. The "wild people" displayed in sideshows are almost always promoted as having been raised by animals in the wild or captured in a jungle. Generally, though they were freaks of some sort, often "discovered" not far from where they are exhibited. Some wild men let their hair grow until it was unruly, but in some cases, according to Mike Parkers' *The World's Most Fantastic Freaks*, sideshow wild men have been "completely covered with hair anywhere from two to six inches long."

The thoroughly modern origin myth, evolution, was being exploited by the sideshow in the form of the "missing link." The "missing link" image has been indelibly etched into the American consciousness through the various hirsute humans who were well known in their era. Much of what the public thinks about wild people and missing links and the like is a result of carnivals, sideshows and circus promotion and exploitation.

DARWIN'S MISSING LINK

Krao, the Missing Link, was the most famous hairy person of her era. In the early 1880s, Krao, then six, was brought from Siam to be exhibited in Europe. "Some savants seem to regard her as the missing link between the human and other animal life," circus programs proclaimed. "[Krao] is covered from head to heels with a long and luxurient [sic] growth of hair, her body and limbs and her hands and feet, as well as her face, being completely concealed by the hirsute covering," according to the 1903 *Barnum and Bailey Official Program and Book of Wonders Combined.*

Krao provided the culture with a missing link which aided in the acceptance of the theory of evolution. She was promoted vigorously by various showmen including Farini and P.T. Barnum as being the living proof of Darwin's theory. Scientists who wrote about her stressed those features that they considered simian, describing her as "half-ape, half-human," furthering the image of the monkey person or missing link. According to scientists, Krao was not just hairy, she had other "nonhuman" attributes, including: "...extraordinary prehensile powers of feet and lips ...the iris is missing entirely, as in the gorilla; the resemblance to the face of the latter is very great and astonishing; the nose is flat, and has wide nostrils inclined diagonally toward the cheek bones; the cheeks hang down and are baggy, and in them [Krao] stores her

food and carries it about with her in the same manner as her cousins of the ape tribe." So wrote H. Kaulitz-Jarlow of the *Institution Ethnologique* in an issue of *Scientific American* which was publishedback in 1883.

Krao's supposed origin, as described in the 1903 Barnum and Bailey Program,was most likely the creation of a circus PR man: "She was captured while an infant by some sailors on a British sailing vessel. She was mistaken by them for an ape or gorilla. Her parents rushed to her rescue, but the sailors succeeded in getting away from the shore of the island upon which they found her and returned to the vessel. It was not until after they had her on shipboard that they discovered that she was a human being...It was reported by the sailors who captured her that from a distance her parents seemed to be covered with hair in exactly the same manner.

Despite the many descriptions of Krao that depict simian characteristics, however, she was certainly human. She was well read, spoke several languages, and was fairly intelligent. After starring for many years with the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus, Krao, an internationally famous performer, died in 1926.

She was 49.

JULIA PASTRANA

Julia Pastrana had a "graceful figure, a sweet voice, great taste in music and dancing, and could speak three languages." Julia was also one of the strangest-looking people in history and, in fact, her name became synonymous with extreme ugliness in the mid-1800s. Strange tales have circulated concerning Julia, and the possibility that she might not have been "completely human" has been mentioned more than once, although all evidence suggests that she was a Mexican Digger Indian. Julia was four and a half feet tall. She had big ears, a wide, squat nose with enormous nostrils, huge, strange lips and a heavy moustache. Her eyes were very prominent and protruded oddly. Her chin was ape-like and most of her face was covered with neatly-combed hair.

Throughout her short adult life, Julia, when not on display, was kept in virtual seclusion by her "manager"-husband. She was not allowed to go out in public and could only rarely see visitors. Julia delivered a son who was covered with hair and deformed, a diminutive carbon copy of herself. She died soon afterward, her baby living only a few hours longer. Julia was only 28. Her husband had Julia mummified and exhibited her in a glass-fronted case, standing next

to her tawdrily-dressed mummified baby.

Hair people and the acutely physically anomalous are often exploited mercilessly by "normal" society, which treats them the way it does non-human animals. Humans with radically prodigious physiologies are often disowned from the human race and demoted to the rank of whatever animal they most closely resemble or of which they have some attribute. Thus, in the case of the Mexican Wolf Boys, one of the loudest complaining voices was that of an Animal Welfare Alliance coordinator—as if the boys were not quite human!

The Lauthers learned that the woman collected great apes...and there were rumors about a plan to try to mate Priscilla and one of the apes. The Lauthers rescued Priscilla in the nick of time... and she went on to live a happy life as wife of the Alligator Man...

PRISCILLA THE MONKEY GIRL

In 1929, Portuguese-speaking strangers appeared at the tent of sideshow owner Carl Lauther one night and presented the Lauthers with a mysterious bundle which was found to contain a baby girl only a few days old. The baby was covered from head to foot with long, black hair.

The Lauthers legally adopted Priscilla and raised her as their own daughter—her real parents never returned. When she was old enough Priscilla joined the show and was a sensation, billed as "the monkey girl who lives with apes." The crowds were "SRO," standing room only.

The Lauthers got Priscilla a chimp playmate named Joanna who became her friend and traveled with her everywhere (long before Michael Jackson popularized the practice). Naturally, having a monkey as one's best friend and constant companion helps to amplify the monkey-girl image and more than implies that maybe Priscilla was somewhere between human and monkey.

At age 17, in 1946, Priscilla was a star attraction in the circus world. Priscilla had one health problem, though: she had two sets of teeth, on row behind the other. The surgery to correct the problem was expensive and the Lauthers were unable to afford the dental bills because of financial setbacks.

Things took a turn for the bizarre when, one night, a large, black car pulled up at the sideshow and an obviously wealthy, elegantly dressed and heavily veiled woman got out and took a seat in the sideshow. The eccentric woman sat through show after show, seemingly transfixed by Priscilla. After the last show she introduced herself to the Lauthers as Madam Obrea. She had a proposition for them: If Priscilla would live with her and ultimately become her foster child, Madame Obrea would pay for the necessary dental surgery, give Priscilla a good education and leave her a sizable nest egg. According to the story, the woman took Priscilla home with her. The Lauthers learned that the woman collected great apes, however, and there were rumors about a plan to try to mate Priscilla and one of the apes. The Lauthers rescued Priscilla in the nick of time, though, and she went on to live a happy life as wife of the Alligator Man in the sideshow.

Priscilla provides a rare example of an extremely hairy person who was quite well adjusted and whose story—unlike Julia Pastrana's—had a happy ending. Life is often not easy for those rare individuals covered with hair, but those of us who study the unusual owe a debt to each of these unique humans. And humans they are, despite the attempts by some late 19th-century scientists, well-meaning child and animal welfare meddlers, and circus PR people and promoters, to suggest otherwise.

Consulting editor and columnist Mark Chorvinsky researches and investigates a wide variety of strange phenomena and is the editor of Strange Magazine *(P.O. Box 2246, Rockville MD 20847. $17.95 for a 4-issue subscription. It is published twice a year. Samples: $5.95.)*

Editor's Note: As you know, FATE has several regular, contributing columnists. Occasionally, due to developments in their personal lives, a writer may not be able to get a column to the FATE offices in time for us to use. In the past three and a half years this has happened only once.

It almost happened again with this column. You see, Mark and his wife are the proud, new parents of a baby boy!

Everyone at FATE would like to congratulate the Chorvinsky family on their new addition. We wish you all long and happy lives.

We would also like to thank Mark for rushing us this column in spite of all the developments in his family. We are glad to have Mark as a columnist and consulting editor and hope that he stays with us for a long time.

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The Scientific Puzzle of Invisible Universes

By Joseph F. Stephany

To hear the physicists, cosmologists and astronomers talk about the universe you would think that there is little left to be discovered. Well, although there has been a great expansion of knowledge about the physical universe in the last 100 years, it seems that less is known than when they started. Or at least it is now known that less is known. One of the biggest puzzles of science today is: *Where is the 90 per cent of the universe that is missing?*

It seems that in measuring the gravitational attraction of our galaxy on various small groups of stars that surround our galaxy called globular clusters, the gravitational force caused by our own galaxy is *ten times larger* than it should be. Scientists know the approximate number of stars in our galaxy. They also know the average size of each star. From this information they can make a good estimate of the total mass of our galaxy. But that mass is ten times too small to account for the gravitational attraction on the nearby globular clusters of stars.

HOW THE EFFECT OF GRAVITATION IS MEASURED

The gravitational attraction of these clusters of stars is measured by means of observing the change in electronic signals—known as a "Doppler Shift" of emissions—measured by radio telescopes. This indicates the velocity of the clusters. With the knowledge of this velocity and the distance to the galactic center the scientists can then determine the amount of centrifugal force acting on the cluster. Since the orbits of the star clusters are ellipses this force, and the force of gravity, are near equilibrium.

As a result of these measurements and calculations it has been determined that the force of gravity is ten times larger than the force that should be produced. Of course, this is based on the estimated number of *visible* stars.

If it were only a single measurement, then perhaps there is an error. But these measurements have been performed again and again, all with the same result: ninety per cent of the mass of our galaxy is missing. Even similar observations on clouds of hydrogen and single wandering stars circulating around our galaxy have given the same result; 90 per cent of the mass of our galaxy is not there.

POSSIBLE ANSWERS

Is there some kind of hidden mass—like a huge black hole—at the center of our galaxy causing this extra mass? No, that has been ruled out. If the missing mass were at the center then the

stars near that area would have to revolve around the galactic center with much higher speed than they do. Otherwise they would fall into the galactic center. In a similar way the planets near our Sun (such as Mercury) revolve in their orbits around that star much faster than those that are further away from the Sun (such as Uranus).

A COSMIC CONUNDRUM

Although the stars near the center of our galaxy should move faster than those at the edges, it just does not happen that way. The stars near the center take just as long to go around the center as the ones further out (which is not at all the way it happens in our solar system). This is the reason that the spiral arms of our galaxy remain intact after many rotations of the galaxy—the spiral structure does not get mixed up the way paint gets mixed up when you stir two colors together. This phenomenon provides the proof that rules out the possibility that the missing mass is at the center of the galaxy. It also means that the missing mass has to be out here between the stars.

So where is it?

BIG AND SMALL

Dark stars have also been ruled out as the location of the missing matter. Dark stars are those which emit almost no light. But there would have to be ten times as many dark stars as bright ones to explain the missing matter. Astronomers have not found enough to make up even a small part of the missing mass.

What about invisible, subatomic particles like neutrinos? Neutrinos are very small, neutrally charged particles emitted from the stars as the stars burn away and use up their nuclear fuel. They can travel through miles of ordinary mass without the slightest effect just as light travels through glass. At one time it seemed possible that the accumulation of these particles could possibly make up the missing mass.

That was ruled out on February 23, 1987, by the great supernova SN1987A, the first supernova known to have occurred in or around our galaxy since the year 1787. SN1987A emitted neutrinos. This was the first time that neutrinos from a supernova were ever detected on Earth. In fact, it was the first time that any neutrinos known to be from outside the solar system were ever observed. But the neutrinos arrived within minutes of the light from the supernova. Since the light and neutrinos had been traveling from the supernova for about 160,000 years, the neutrinos would have had to travel at almost

exactly the speed of light. It was concluded that the neutrinos have hardly any mass, if any at all. If they did, they could not travel so close to the speed of light. (Einstein showed that no mass could travel at the speed of light and any mass would have great difficulty in even approaching the speed of light.) So SN1987A eliminated neutrinos as the source of the missing mass.

BREAKING THE LAW

Possible variations in the law of gravity were also considered. But the law of gravity works in our solar system—certainly well within the factor of ten needed to explain the phenomenon.

It was suggested that at galactic distances gravity could follow some other law which would result in a much stronger force. But that would mean that the gravitational attraction of our galaxy—the Milky Way—for the galaxies around us would also be much stronger. In fact such a force of gravity at large distances would have to be so strong that the universe would have long ago collapsed into a small ball. Theorists have not been able to create a theory of gravity where gravity would behave differently at galactic distances than it does at solar system distances and

intergalactic distances, so this possibility has also been ruled out.

Various theories to explain the missing matter have been proposed only to have been eliminated, one by one. Particles that are so massive or large in number that they take up 90 per cent of the mass of the galaxy or other objects like dark stars and planets or massive quantities of microscopic dust have all been ruled out. As they would have to contain ten times the mass of our galaxy, it is hard to see how any one of these could have missed being observed, particularly since great effort is being exerted by scientists on this problem.

It now appears that all galaxies have this missing mass, and our galaxy is not peculiar in this respect. One possible explanation —perhaps the only possible explanation—is emerging.

GHOST GALAXIES

The one remaining explanation is that there are "ghost" galaxies. Each galaxy has perhaps nine ghost galaxies that are totally invisible to each other because each such "ghost" is created out of particles that do not interact with each other—except in one way.

The one property of matter that all matter must have is that you cannot hide the distortion of space which, according to Einstein, any mass causes. It is this distortion which is the source of gravity. Gravitational attraction, then, is a universal property of space-time and not a property that occurs only between certain particles.

FOUR FORCES

It is known that there are four fundamental physical forces: the electromagnetic force, the strong nuclear force, the weak nuclear force, and the force of gravitation. Of these forces only gravitation must occur between all particles, irrespective as to what they are. Therefore, only the force of gravity can reveal the existence of parallel universes and not the other three forces.This means that the other universes cannot be seen, cannot be touched, and that no means exists for observing them. The only way that they can be detected, at present, is by the effect of their gravitation.

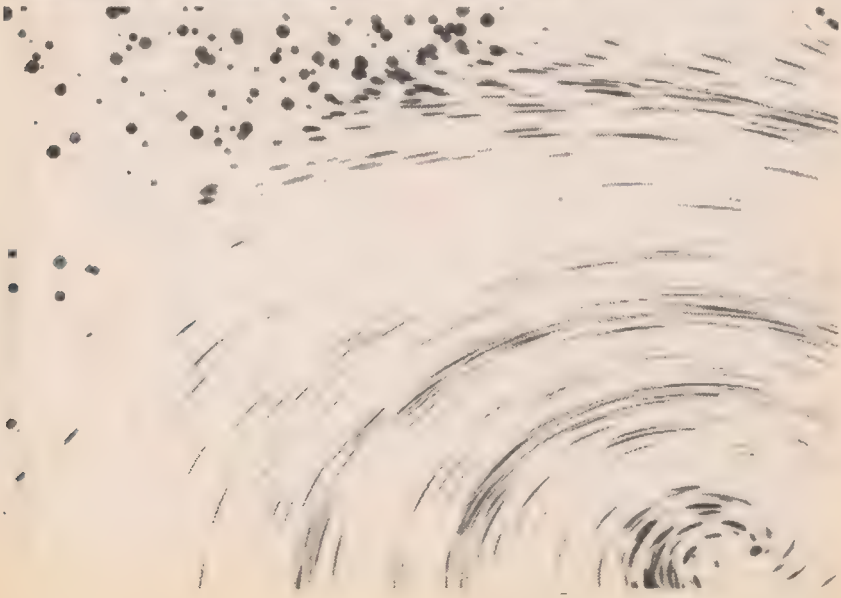
So there must be perhaps nine invisible galaxies circling within our own. It would be nine in number if each of the invisible galaxies had as its mass a total amount of matter about equal to the mass of our own galaxy.

If all nine galaxies had stars in identical positions to ours then there would be nine invisible suns in place with our Sun, with each sun generating a gravita-

tional force. The gravitational attraction of the suns for Earth should be nine times stronger than it is, but such is not the case. The Earth spins around the Sun as though it were a single sun, otherwise we would be spinning around the Sun nine times faster, or sucked into that star.

You may be thinking of the possibility that the Earth, Moon, and planets—not just the Sun—are *all* composed of invisible matter in additional to the conventional matter that we see. It could be that these multiple objects are all held together by gravitation, and all positioned at exactly the same places. It seems good, but it cannot be. It is ruled out by the fact that, if this were so, the apparent effects would be identical to the effects of just our visible galaxy and would not indicate the missing matter. Therefore, the missing matter is within our galaxy in quantities far above the ordinary mass but only a small fraction of the missing mass could be within our solar system.

The stars and suns of the invisible galaxies are not at all identical to our own but only share a vast similitude, perhaps all being created at about the same instant. Now they are following their own separate existences and are only held together by their mutual gravitational attraction.



STRANGE POSSIBILITIES

Have interactions occurred between our universe and the invisible universes? Astronomers have long searched for the star called "Nemesis." That is the star that is presumed to circle our own Sun and, once in 26 million years, approaches the solar system and disturbs it so much by its gravitational attraction that it creates a chaos of comets and disturbed asteroids that are sent flying throughout the system. Such a disturbance, perhaps created by Nemesis, may have caused the extinction of the dinosaurs. Extensive searches for Nemesis have not revealed its existence. Is it a sun from one of the other universes, an object that is totally invisible, but whose gravitation at times plays havoc with our solar system?

What of the object that hit the Earth near Podkamennaya Tunguska River in Siberia on June 30, 1908, leaving no trace of its existence but creating an explosion that flattened thousands of square miles of forest? Astronomers estimate that the colliding object was about 300 feet in diameter (if it was made of ordinary matter) but no trace of it was ever found. Scientists further estimate that tens of thousands of objects this size must exist in the solar system, but not one single one has ever been seen, although such objects are well within the capacity of detection by modern telescopes. Could it then be that this was another object from an invisible universe? Is it possible that the Earth collided with a large piece of matter from the invisible universes and the explosion was produced by the gravitational interaction?

Who knows what creatures and effects that these invisible galaxies have and what their influence is upon us. One's imagination leads to beings and systems of worlds of unimaginable structure and power. Perhaps beings that, in their own way, have found some method of interacting with our universe, beings that are as alien to us as we are to them. Beings that communicate with each other by means of particles other than the photons which compose light and radio waves that we use to communicate with. Perhaps those being observe us, and we are just as strange to them as they would be to us.

The universe may be much more complicated and wonderful than we think, just as the present world of science is so much more complex and wonderful than the world that science predicted for us 100 years ago. And the world in the future will be much more wonderful and extensive than what we think.

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DANCING BALLS OF LIGHT

We are still confronted with the surprising mystery of Ball Lightning. What is it? How does it exist? What causes it? Is it even real?

Doris M. Humphrey

In St. Petersburg in 1753, Georg Richmann, the Russian Benjamin Franklin, was killed by a ball of fire which entered his laboratory and struck him in the face while he was experimenting with a lightning rod.

• In April 1915, a Columbia, Missouri man was standing beside a window in his home during a thunderstorm when he heard a report like a rifle shot. Then his phone made a clicking noise and he saw a ball of light emerge from the mouthpiece. It floated toward him like a bubble, rolled about the window sill and silently disappeared.

• In Drifton, Pennsylvania, in June 1915, balls of light were seen passing down the hallways of houses; the area telephone operator reported that "balls of fire" had appeared from the plugs of the switchboard.

• In 1938 at the Meteorological Office in Wilton, England, a brilliant white sphere was observed hovering between the anemometer and the radio receiver.

• In March 1963, passengers on an Eastern Airlines flight from New York to Washington, DC, saw a glowing ball about nine inches in diameter emerge from the cockpit door and glide down the aisle at a height of about two and one-half feet from the floor.

• One night in November 1963 in Nottingham, England, an egg-shaped fireball appeared in a man's bedroom, rousing him from sleep. The ball spread out to the walls of the room, forming a sheet of dark green light which moved toward the man as he sat up in fright. It disappeared with a loud bang.

• In 1965 in Dunnellon, Florida, a lady was sitting on her screened

porch holding a flyswatter when a ball of light suddenly encompassed the swatter, then dropped to the floor with a noise like a shotgun blast.

A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

One afternoon in February 1989, in the west upstairs bedroom of my house in Rockville, Maryland, I was watching *The People's Court* on TV. It was about 20 minutes before 5:00 P.M. The day had been cold and sunny and the late afternoon light coming through the west windows was still quite bright. All at once I noticed a group of little globes of bright white light—varying in size from marbles to Ping Pong balls—dancing and hovering around the cord that leads from the TV to the wall outlet in the corner. At first I thought they must be light reflections from the windows, but the balls rose and fell and danced all along the cord; they went down into the wastebasket that holds extra cord. There is an artificial fireplace in the room with electric logs, but they were not turned on. The little lights rose from the wastebasket and followed the cord that leads from the corner outlet to the electric logs, hovered and danced in the fireplace opening, then condensed into one sphere the size of a tennis ball which went up and down weightlessly several times, then dropped behind the logs. I got up to look, but there was nothing there. When I went back to watching *The People's Court*, the little balls reappeared and went through their performance exactly the same way a second time.

No light reflections could cause such an effect—not mirrors, not the TV screen, not picture glass, not the brass bed—nothing in the room. Light reflections don't dance along an electric cord! I stationed myself in the west upstairs bedroom at the same time the next afternoon; again the weather was cold and sunny, and Judge Wapner was presiding on *The People's Court*. No little dancing balls of light appeared, nor have there been any since.

BALL LIGHTNING

Encyclopedias at the public library defined *Ball Lightning* in a few sentences but I was able to get detailed information from the Harry Diamond Laboratories (Dept. of Defense) Library in Adelphi, Maryland. Ball lightning is described as luminous spheres measuring between one inch and five feet in diameter. Five to 15 inches is common. They may last for a few seconds or as long as 10 minutes. They may be white, violet, red, yellow, or even black. Mine were white and their two appearances took about 10

minutes. The balls seem to prefer enclosed spaces but are sometimes seen outdoors following electric lines. They are often, but not always, associated with thunderstorms. They may go off with a bang leaving an odor of sulphur or ozone; mine were silent and odorless.

A SCIENTIFIC ANOMALY

As recently as 1970 there were scientists who refused to believe that ball lightning was anything but hallucinations or spots before the eyes. However, hundreds of well-documented sightings make it one of the most puzzling scientific anomalies.

Nikola Tesla, the Yugoslavian electrical wizard and rival of Edison, claimed to have produced ball lightning in his laboratory. In the 1960s, Dr. James Barry of UCLA used copper electrodes and propane gas inside a plexiglass tank to produce a small, yellow-green fireball which whizzed around the tank for an instant, then disappeared. Short-lived fireballs have been made at Yeshiva University by the use of electromagnetic fields at radio frequencies.

Ball lightning has been explained variously as burning balls of gas, luminous metallic vapor, nuclear reactions, ionized air, high-energy protons, metastable states of molecules, even antimatter. A British account tells of a four-inch fireball that dropped into a rain barrel behind a house and boiled the water, then struck the house, cut the telephone wires, and burned a window frame. How can so much energy be contained in a ball no bigger than an juicy orange which is ready to be eaten?

If you happen to encounter a fireball, watch it but don't touch it. In another British account,

dated August 1975, a lady in Warley, Smithwick, was in her kitchen cooking when a sphere of bright blue light about four inches in diameter appeared over the stove. She could feel heat from it as it moved toward her at about waist level. Automatically she brushed the ball away. After it had disappeared, the lady felt a burn on her hand and noticed the front of her dress was singed. She presented the frock to the Warley Museum.

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300 years after the Salem Witch Trials...

THE WITCHES FIGHT BACK!

John Ellis Sech

An antidefamation league for Witches has been established with its headquarters in Salem, Massachusetts. The Witches' League for Public Awareness' purpose is to set the record straight on exactly who and what Witches really are.

The League hopes to convince people that Witches are not evil, cannibalistic, spell-casting, drug addicts, which some people perceive them to be because of bad pulp fiction and inaccurate, sensationalistic news reporting. The League wants everyone to know that theirs is a recognized religion with more than 6,000,000 members and that they deserve the same respect given other religions.

Reaction to Witches outside the United States can be more lethal than the bad press which American Witches must endure. Murders of suspected Witches have taken place in India. On April 23, 1989, Sonamoni Kisku, an old woman, was dragged from her hut by two brothers who believed that the woman was a Witch. The men tied the woman to a tree and chopped her to death with an axe. The crime took place in Goaljoi, a village about 150 miles northwest of Calcutta.

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RAINBOW DRAGONS AND MARINE ELEPHANTS

Sometimes there are real creatures that stretch even the realms of cryptozoology

By Dr. Karl P.N. Shuker

Dream a dream of a mysterious dragon that only appears when a rainbow is resting upon the vivid, viridescent hillsides of Zaire and Zambia—a creature whose reality is widely accepted by many natives in these tropical African countries. One might expect such an Arcadian, picturesque scenario to inspire images of a bright, evanescent entity with sparkling opalescent scales, a proud noble head of classical profile, and sweeping, polychromatic butterfly wings—a golden, glittering creature of faerie, of heady sunlit reverie.

Yet nothing could be further from the truth, because the image that these native people do visualize when contemplating this creature is an evocation of much darker dreams. According to their belief, the rainbow-summoned dragon of Zaire and Zambia, known as the *mulilo*, is a gigantic, coal-black, slug-like beast of loathsome form, measuring almost six feet in length and over one feet in width, and leaving death in its wake, the deadly legacy of its poisonous breath.

The *mulilo* epitomizes the category of mystery creature to be considered here. Even though their existence is hotly disputed by science, most mystery crea-

tures on record can be provisionally assigned, with a measurable degree of certainty, to at least one already-established zoological group. The yeti, for example, is surely either a large anthropoid ape, or a primitive species of hominoid. The Congolese *mokele-mbembe* seems most likely to be a surviving sauropod dinosaur, or a very sizable species of monitor lizard, and so on. These are beasts that the cryptozoologist can feel secure with—they may disturb traditional scientists, but their eventual discovery would not require the creation of completely new categories within the zoological catalogue.

BEYOND CRYPTOZOOLOGY

In contrast, there are certain other mystery creatures that do not seem to resemble anything known on Earth, either in the present or the past. They defy even the vaguest of classifications, and in some cases are so bizarre that even the most open-minded of cryptozoologists finds it difficult to suppress a shudder of disbelief and discomfiture when casting his eyes warily through their files. For these seem to be creatures *beyond* cryptozoology—too peculiar and too perplexing for even the science of hidden life to feel comfortable with.

They are the "ultra-mystery" beasts and can be identified as such by two recurring characteristics. Firstly, as already noted, they do not resemble anything previously described by science. Secondly, once their existence has been made known to the world, usually by nothing more than a brief newspaper article, they plummet back into obscurity. There is no sequel; no continuation of reports.

Cryptozoologists know too well the frustrating paradox that the more peculiar a mystery beast appears to be, the more likely it is to be dismissed automatically by traditional scientists. This dismissal usually comes without receiving any form of scientific investigation—even in cases when the beast in question has actually been captured—sometimes alive!

Take, for example, the *mulilo.* One could certainly be forgiven for considering it to be nothing more than a fanciful folktale. Yet as reported in 1940 by W.L. Speight within an *Empire Review* article on African mystery beasts, a living, corporeal animal is clearly involved, because pieces of blackened flesh said to be from dead *mulilos* are worn by some natives as fertility charms. There is no known species of slug that attains the size attributed to the *mulilo;* in any event, the bodies of slugs are relatively insubstantial,

little more than slender gelatinous sacs, hardly the likeliest of materials to remain intact for utilization as charms. Perhaps the blackened flesh is really from a slug-like snake— but even so, is that snake truly the *mulilo*, or is its flesh merely used by the natives as a means of vindicating their belief in what is actually a nonexistent, wholly mythical beast?

A MULILO TRAP

If the flesh *is* from a *mulilo* (regardless of what species it may belong to), how do the natives obtain it? According to Speight, they set a trap—building a secure cage, lined internally with sharp blades, and baited with a living cockerel. Then they simply wait each night, and listen. On the morning that no cockcrow is heard, the natives celebrate and journey joyfully to the cage—for they know that inside it they will find the *mulilo*, dead, impaled upon the blades during its capture of the cockerel.

Yet despite this apparently successful method of obtaining *mulilo* remains, the *mulilo* is as mysterious and scientifically unidentified today as it was when documented by Speight half a century ago. Moreover, setting the trend for this article's other "ultra-mystery" beasts, it does not even seem to have been reported again—perhaps rainbows have been rare in Zaire and Zambia lately.

AQUATIC ANOMALIES

And whatever happened to the marine monstrosity captured by a Tanzanian fisherman in May 1975 and reported on May 28 in Tanzania's Daily News? According to the report, the Tanzanian government had announced that the beast had been caught off a deep water jetty at Kilwa Masoko by fisherman Mohammed Sefu, and was said to have come complete with a toothless mouth and large tongue, a beard, ear, small horn, cow-like hump, a pair of legs with toes, an eye ensconced in its chest and a second, lamp-like glowing counterpart on its right flank, plus a pair of five-fingered arms also originating from its chest!

A photograph of this aquatic anomaly accompanied the newspaper report, but no one seems to know the fate of the specimen itself. Was it ever examined by a qualified zoologist, or, more likely, was it simply thrown back into the sea? Nothing further has emerged regarding this beast's own emergence—unexpected and unexplained right up to the present day.

The same can be said for a pair of equally unusual underwater inhabitants reported in London's *Daily Mirror* on June 9, 1933. The creatures in question were cap-

tured by Sussex cricket bowler Maurice Tate while fishing with friends from a motor launch sited 15 miles out of Auckland, New Zealand. According to Tate, his astonishing catch comprised a loudly groaning fish possessing several legs, large yellow wings, huge blue eyes, and sprinkled liberally all over with pink spots! Not surprisingly, Tate could scarcely believe his eyes, but was forced to accept their testimony when, just moments later, his companion Wally Hammond caught another of them! Fish with legs (not to mention wings) seem a contradiction in terms, to say the least. What could they have been?

Interestingly, there is a fish known as *Pantodon buchholzi* that possesses very large and extremely strange pectoral fins, held out from its sides, able to flap up and down just like wings, and incorporating long, stiff, rod-like rays that the fish actually uses as legs, to "stand" upon the bottom of its watery abode. Moreover, its body is dappled with spots (though brown ones rather than pink). However, this odd species is exclusively West African, and is confined to freshwater. In short, it is clearly not the answer to Tate's piscean puzzles, whose subsequent fate is unrecorded, once again.

On May 27, 1939, *Modern Wonder* documented some "ultra-myste-

Could the Malayan "two tongued" mystery beasts have been tarsiers?

rious" mammals, allegedly captured by a photographer in the Malayan jungles and later observed by bemused newspaper officials in Manila, of the Philippines. Each of the beasts (of unrecorded number) was described as being quadrupedal, weighing about 200 lb., covered in a furry, mole-like pelage (i.e., dark, dense, and shiny?), with a raccoon-like head, a pair of owl-like eyes (thus large and staring?), and odd dentition—some of its teeth resembled a man's, others were cat-like—plus a fondness for bananas. Except for their extremely heavy weight (an error?), there would seem to be a chance of identifying them with some known animal type—until, that is, their most distinctive characteristic is revealed.

For the description also stated that *each of these beasts had two tongues!* Furthermore, it alleged that they never drank, because they absorbed all of the moisture that they required directly through their skins. This is generally a characteristic of certain animals living in water or in moist habitats, but the animals concerned are normally amphibians, fishes, and lower life forms, not mammals. Conversely, it is true that many desert-dwelling rodents rarely if ever drink water, because they obtain it from their food (e.g., juicy plant tissues) or from metabolic water released as they digest the dry components of their diet, but they do not absorb water through their skins.

In general appearance (and excluding weight), they are reminiscent of some of the lesser-known, mask-faced forms of Malay civet and badger—elusive, short-furred creatures of nocturnal lifestyle and partial to fruit within their largely omnivorous diet. Moreover, the owl-like eyes call to mind the tarsiers, those orb-eyed, sucker-fingered, lemur-like primates indigenous to Southeast Asia (including the Malay Archipelago), and sufficiently strange in appearance to those not familiar with these rarely-seen nocturnal creatures to attract surprise and newspaper attention. Even so, none of those identities can reconcile the mystery beasts' two tongues and the ability to absorb moisture directly through their skins. Could these attributes have been based upon misunderstanding or mistranslation, rather than upon reality? As nothing more is on record regarding the photographer's mystifying finds, there is no way of knowing.

And what can we say about the extraordinary creature reported in November 1975 by the Ahtara News Agency, and also documented by the Rand *Daily Mail?* According to these reports,

villagers in Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo) had caught a notably bizarre beast in the jungle that no scientist could identify (but had any scientist actually observed it at first hand?). Judging from its description, this is not altogether surprising. Dubbed a "tigelboat," it was said to have the body of a tiger (hence striped?), a goat's limbs but the clawed feet of a chicken, a leonine (maned?) neck, an elephant-like trunk, a cow's ears, and, believe it or not, a goat-like beard!

Whereas it is true that those rhino-related mammals known as tapirs, native not only to South America but also to Southeast Asia, are indeed striped when young, and have a small trunk, mane, and cow-like ears, it would take quite a stretch of the imagination to describe their longish hooves as chicken-like claws. Also, they do not possess any tuft of facial fur comparable to a beard, and their legs are much more robust than a goat's. Most significant of all, their known distribution does not extend to Borneo. So if the reports accurately described the "tigelboat" and it did not represent a hitherto unknown, distinctive tapir native to Borneo, what was it? Apparently, it was kept for a time at a prison at Tengarong, but its subsequent whereabouts are as unknown as its identity.

Malaysian tapir and striped young. Is this the identity of the "tigelboat?"

A comparably composite curiosity was reported in September 1984 by the Associated Press, and was also noted in the *ISC Newsletter* (Spring 1986), where it was aptly termed a "hippoturtle-ox." Allegedly inhabiting Tibet's remote Lake Duobuzhe, it was killed in 1972 by some Chinese soldiers, and dragged to a local village. Its fundamentally ox-like body had hippo-like skin, and was borne upon turtle-like legs, and its head bore short, curly horns!

Just to muddle matters even further, this anomalous animal brings to mind an amazing creature sighted a decade earlier many thousands of miles away to the west. One day in March 1962, school-teacher Alphonsus Mullaney and his son were fishing in Lough Dubh, a lake in County Galway, Ireland, when they hooked a truly grotesque beast that they described as being as big as a cow, with short thick legs, a dark grey body covered in short hair or bristles, and a square face with small ears—plus, most striking of all, a rhino-like horn on its snout! Fortunately for them, the fishing line broke, and the two Mullaneys lost no time in racing away. Later they returned with a posse of local men armed with guns, but nothing could be found (Irish *Sunday Review*, March 1962).

Equally as incongruous as an amphibious rhinoceros thriving in Ireland is a scaly anteater (pangolin) abounding in England —but how else can we explain the baroque beast encountered in Dumpton Park, Ramsgate, Kent, on April 16, 1954 by Police Constable S. Bishop (as recorded in John Keel's *Strange Creatures From Time and Space*, 1970), and described by him as a "walking fir cone"? This is an excellent description of a pangolin, those insectivorous mammals covered in huge scales remarkably similar to those of a fir-cone or pine-cone.

Pangolins, however, are wholly restricted to the tropics of Africa and Asia. Also, they are so difficult to maintain in captivity that they are seldom exhibited in zoos, and even more rarely kept as pets. So even if we do identify P.C. Bishop's beast as a pangolin, how can we explain its presence in a Kent park? We have simply exchanged one mystery for another, and emerged none the wiser.

Not only are pangolins non-British, they are also non-aquatic. On January 8, 1973, the *Hindu*, a Madras newspaper, reported that a scaly, orange-colored beast measuring almost one meter long, with a sharp anteater-like nose, and able to walk and run on land, had been caught by fishermen in the sea off Tranquebar, Madras. True, it has certain pan-

Was the "walking fir cone" of Kent, England, a pangolin?

golin similarities, but pangolins are neither orange colored nor amphibious. Needless to say, no further news has appeared.

CERBERUS COMES TO LIFE

In 1883, the illustrious journal *Scientific American* included an account describing the killing on Bolivia's Beni River of an incredible scaly beast that compared more closely with a certain fabulous, hideous monster of myth than with a pangolin or anything else known in the real world. Photographs and drawings made of it and sent to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Rio by the Brazilian Minister at La Paz depicted a 12-meter-long beast with a large, dog-like head—accompanied by the development from its back (four meters behind) of what seemed to be two more, smaller, dog-like heads! The creature's neck, bearing the principal head, was long, and the lower throat, underparts, and legs were covered by a scaly armor, with a thicker version protecting its back and its neck's nape. Its legs were short, but bore formidable claws on the feet.

The carcass of this quite exceptional entity was said to have been preserved and sent on to La Paz. Additionally, as an all-too-rare change, it was actually ex-

amined by a scientist, a Prof. Gilveti, who considered it to belong to an exceedingly rare, almost vanished species—but *which* species? After all, the beast with which it shares the greatest degree of similarity is wholly legendary—none other, in fact, than the huge nightmarish guardian of Greek mythology's Underworld, the monstrous, three-headed hound Cerberus!

Concluding this survey of the surrealistically strange in unidentified animals is the astonishing sea monster of Margate, South Africa—an "ultra-mystery" beast that does not so much defy as demolish all attempts at description and identification. According to a report in London's *Daily Mail* for December 27, 1924, (based upon an earlier account in a local South African newspaper), on the morning of November 1, 1922, Hugh Ballance looked out to sea while on the beach at Margate, Natal, and spied two whales engaged in combat with what seemed to be an immense, pure-white polar bear. After several hours of battle, which had attracted an appreciable crowd of spectators on the beach, the mystery beast was killed by the whales, and during that evening its corpse was carried ashore by the waves.

When curious onlookers drew near, they saw to their great surprise that instead of possessing a distinct head, it bore a long trunk-like appendage, measuring about five feet. At the other end of its body was a 10-foot tail, and the entire carcass measured a colossal 47 feet Equally striking was its clothing of snow-white fur, about eight inches long and exactly like the pelage of a genuine polar bear.

Now it is well known that when carcasses of sharks or whales decompose, the layer of fibrous connective tissue beneath these creatures' outer skin begins to dry, and assumes the form of stiff, spiky "hair." However, the "fur" of Margate's trunked mystery beast seemed too long and luxuriant to be explained away as dried out, connective tissue—and anyway, it must be remembered that the creature's pure-white color was clearly observed during its battle with the whales; i.e., while the animal was *still alive!*

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

Tragically, indeed unforgiveably, this unique carcass was actually allowed to rot on the beach without any zoologist taking the time or trouble to come along and examine it! After 10 days, the waves that had brought it ashore washed it back into the sea, and it was not seen again. Science had been given a rare

opportunity to witness and document one of the sea's most surprising secrets, but it failed to capitalize upon it; to date, it has not been granted a second chance, so that the mystery of this "marine elephant" (for want of a better name) remains unsolved. It did not resemble any animal known to zoology or to palaeontology, yet not even a single photograph, or sample of its perplexing pelage, exists—truly one of the great, wasted opportunities of modern times.

The same sorry story applies to all of the other "ultra-mystery" beasts whose remains actually came within reach, however briefly, of scientific investigation. These opportunities cannot be regained, but if their loss incites a greater interest in any comparably enigmatic forms encountered in the future, then their histories will not have been totally without issue. Science cannot hope to speculate with any notable degree of accuracy the nature of the zoological surprises that the future has in store, but it can surely make every effort to guarantee that when they do appear they will not be discounted or ignored if their description seems rather strange. Is that really so much to ask?

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AGENTS FOR THE DEAD

By Claire Metzger

Although they are no longer alive, more than 50 celebrities—from James Dean to Elvis to Fred Astaire—still need tough agents to handle their numerous business deals. Curtis Management Group, Dean's agency, represents many celebrities who are gone but not forgotten. Babe Ruth, for example, sells electronic equipment for Zenith; Fred Astaire may lend his name to a designer label for a line of men's formal wear.

According to *TV Entertainment monthly*, the Roger Richman Agency, which has 30 dead celebrities among its clients, is Curtis' major competitor. "We probably get more calls for Albert Einstein than for anyone else." He also handles licensing requests for Marilyn Monroe, Sigmund Freud, Mae West and W.C. Fields.

Both agents see their principal role as protecting departed celebrities from exploitation. They spend much time fighting for licensing fees on a case-by-case basis.

They have licensed T-shirts, calendars, greeting cards, posters, billboards, statuettes and porcelain plates. Rejected as in poor taste have been Humphrey Bogart liquor endorsements, James Dean cologne and Babe Ruth cigars.

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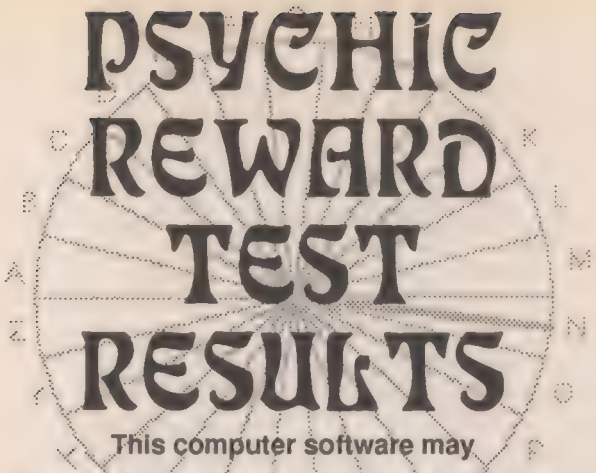
PSYCHIC REWARD TEST RESULTS



This computer software may help people improve their psychic abilities

Plus: a Success Potential Test for readers *without* computers

By Alan Vaughan

Test results are in for readers who responded to my article ("Psychic Reward") in the April 1991 issue of FATE to test and train their psychic ability with Psychic Reward software for IBM compatible and Macintosh computers.

Psychic Reward's unique testing principle gives immediate positive feedback by way of "rewards" of imaginary sums of dollars for getting close to the target letter. Letters of the alphabet are arranged in a circle. You predict which letter will be randomly chosen by the computer. A direct hit is worth a reward of $10,000, one off is $4,000, two off is $2,000 and so on. Chance average is $ 1,000. Scores are recorded and analyzed over 60 tests (with 30 trials per test). From this information we have been able to determine odds against chance for learning (improving your score over the 60 tests) or above-chance scoring. For full details on how Psychic Reward works, please see my April 1991 article.

THE RESULTS OF THE FATE TEST

Of 92 people who tried the software, 17 sent in full data sheets. When added to the first five trainees, a significant percentage—73 per cent of 22 trainees

—show improvement in their psychic abilities with one third attaining significant proportions.

The highest overall scorer was Deborah Beaver of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, whose score beat chance by an amazing 2,500 to 1. She was unaware of having any psychic experiences but "always seems to have good 'instincts' on things." Head of her own company, she fits the pattern of successful company presidents who display precognitive ability.

The second highest overall scorer was Marion Brunstein of Meadow Creek, British Columbia, Canada, who reached formidable odds of 1,300 to 1 in two precognition experiments.

The greatest improvement for the precognition experiment was shown by Terri Wilkie of Miami Beach, whose odds reached 50 to 1.

ATTEMPTS AT PK

Another way of using Psychic Reward is to reverse the methodology. Instead of guessing which letter will appear, the trainee chooses all of the letters in advance and then tries to make the software choose those letters. Of three participants who attempted such psychokinesis (PK) experiments with the software, the star was a formerly skeptical psychologist from Philadelphia, Morton H. Kleban, Ph. D. He used a random number table to enter random guess letters and then tried to influence them to come up. He did three experiments, with significant learning from first to third experiment reaching odds of over 100 to 1. His overall score on his last experiment was also highly significant.

Kleban described his PK experience this way: "I was impressed with how relaxed I was in not having to select the letters. I also had a feeling that my mind was dazzled. For want of a better description, the mind's censor seemed slightly dumfounded. I was so surprised by what was happening that I could hardly believe it myself while I was doing it."

In the "Psychic Genius" level (odds of 1,000 to 1) for test scores of 30 trials, Kleban won first place with $2,714 (odds of 6,100 to 1). Tying for second place were Ann Kuhn of Toledo, Ohio, and Bruce McArthur of El Prado, New Mexico, who hit $2,568 (odds of 2,200 to 1). Coming in third was Dorothy Malachin of Dunbar, Pennsylvania, whose score of $2,505 has odds of 1,500 to 1. Honorable mention goes to Erika Ohlschmidt of Bonners Ferry, Idaho, who cracked odds of 700 to 1 with her score of $2,401. (The odds for the test scores were confirmed by 300,000 computer simulations of 30 trials, a total of 9,000,000 trials.)

STRATEGIES THAT WORKED

Was there one strategy that stood out as giving the best results? Several people used different words to describe a similar experience:

- "Being relaxed, meditative, not allowing misses to annoy me."
- "Being able to completely let go—a feeling of 'not caring.' "
- "Maintaining a relaxed, easy-going, playful attitude."
- "The harder I concentrated, the more I got wrong—I tried to find a medium level of concentration."

Those quotes are amazingly similar to quotes from very rich people on the strategy they use to achieve success: maintain a relaxed, playful attitude and treat life like a game.

TEST YOUR SUCCESS POTENTIAL

As a result of knowing those characteristics indicative of success, FATE readers who do not use computers but who want to discover their success potential can participate in the following test. It is based on the famous research at Newark College of Engineering that proved that the most reliable indicator of financial success is the ability to intuitively predict random events. Over 80 per cent of successful company presidents (those who doubled profits in five years) scored above chance on precognition tests. One hundred per cent of unsuccessful presidents scored below chance.

The executives made 100 guesses of numbers on an IBM card which was later compared to random numbers generated by a computer. Chance score was 10 right.

Psychic Reward gives precognition scores that are a hundred times more sensitive than the IBM card test. A pilot study with Psychic Reward showed that people who were oriented toward the future did better in predicting it than people oriented toward the present or past. This may mean that people who have the most positive attitude toward the future can become the most successful.

For those of you who do not have computers and who wish to be involved in this study, there are two sections. First, fill out the The Attitude Toward the Future (ATF) Profile. A research study will correlate ATF Profile scores with your Psychic Reward scores. Second, enter 30 guess letters for a Psychic Reward precognition test. *(Hint: Be playful in your letter guesses. You may want to spell out names or phrases that have special appeal.)* Here are the odds against chance if your score is above-chance (over $1,000):

Good Potential (Above Chance) is $962 - $1,703.

Very Good (odds of 20:1) is $1,704 - $2,043.

Excellent (odds of 100:1) is $2,044-$2,420.

Psychic Genius (odds of 1,000:1) is $2,421 -$2,778.

Twilight Zone (odds of 10,000: 1) is $2,779 - $ 10,000.

ATTITUDE TOWRD THE FUTURE (ATF) PROFILE
© 1991 By Alan Vaughan

Instructions: Circle the letter that better describes your attitude.

1) (a) I prefer to use intuition to see into the future.

(b) I prefer to analyze past events to project the future.

2) (a) My daydreams are more often about the future.

(b) My daydreams are more often about the past.

3) (a) I think the world will be a better place in the future.

(b) I think the world will be worse off in the future.

4) (a) I prefer to set goals for my future.

(b) I prefer to take life one day at a time.

Number of (a) answers: _____
Number of (b) answers: _____

Subtract (b) from (a) for ATF Profile score: _____

A positive score indicates a future orientation. A zero indicates a present orientation. A negative score indicates a past orientation.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Send in a version of the following to:

Alan Vaughan/MTS
3223 Madera Ave.
Los Angeles CA 90039

My name and address:

_____
_____
_____
_____

My ATF score _____ (from above information)

My 30 guess letters (A-Z) for a Psychic Reward precognition test are:

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Include a check for $8.00 made out to Alan Vaughan. You will receive results of your Success Potential Test. Overall results will be published in a future issue of FATE.

Alan Vaughan is a well-known psychic and author of several books on the paranormal.

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THE LIGHT OF SPIRIT

A Real-Life English Ghost Story

The real names of people in this article, as well as their affidavits attesting to the truth of this story are on file at the offices of FATE.

By Melody Clark

It was not my first trip to England, but it was certainly my most memorable. I love England, second only to my own country, and was very happy to leave busy Gatwick Airport for the soothing English countryside. We counted among our party of four a couple of psychic sensitives, but on that morning the Other Side seemed as remote to us as the crowd and clutter of our hometown, Los Angeles. We had only one goal: a fun, memorable vacation, and nothing else mattered in the least as we drove in high spirits toward a house in Yorkshire.

Our friend Jocelyn was a ballet dancer and had gone to the Continent for a performance. She had kindly extended to us the use of her house for our week's stay in York. We were thrilled at the prospect, far preferring the convenience and comfort of a private home to yet another chain hotel. I look back on her letter of invitation now with some amusement. "See how you go around the house," she warned us. "There are some things that need fixing and don't bother at the creaks and groans at night. We're used to them. It's an old, old house."

We had surmised her warnings to be of the physical world

in nature. We assumed that the "creaks" and "groans" were the work of two-century-old wood and English plumbing over anything more abstract. Certainly, Jocelyn never told us she had ghosts.

SURPRISING DISCOVERIES

We settled into the house quickly. The amiable cottage had predictably ancient lighting using dimmer switches. The antiquated plumbing featured hot water heaters we had to pummel into service. The atmosphere of dusty age prevailed and we just loved it. By the time we all shipped off to bed we were able to make our way around in the dark, entirely at home.

In the morning, I found the downstairs light on.

At first, I wasn't alarmed. Although I knew that no one had been up before me (my bed was by the stairs) I inspected the dimmer switch and found it just slightly away from the "off" position. I decided that whoever the idiot was who shut the lights off the night before hadn't done a very good job of it. I had only myself to blame.

As soon as everyone was up for breakfast, I related the incident, only to find that the others had been smelling tobacco smoke all night long. I hadn't smelled anything—I can't sleep on planes and had barely made it to nightfall with my eyes open. Apparently, the odor of pipe smoke had filled the upstairs corridor strongly enough that it leaked into each bedroom. The others were certain that it had been pipe smoke, rather than cigarettes (which we might have picked up on our clothes or luggage on the plane or at Gatwick) or some other kind of smoke. Since none of us even smoked cigarettes, it was an interesting occurrence.

We shrugged all of it off, though, as we prepared for a day of sightseeing in York. We scouted the house for something unknown burning (checking the water heaters, too). I made certain that the dimmer switch was all the way off (fearing my friend Jocelyn's Scottish ire should she come back to a burned-out light switch). With the house thus firmly secured, our foursome set out for the city.

We returned to the house a couple of hours after dark. As my friend Marnie remembers, "I knew we were in trouble the moment we drove the hired car into the drive." From the front walk we could all clearly see the living room light softly burning...the one I had checked before leaving to make sure it was "off."

My first thought wasn't any-

thing metaphysical. I decided I had best phone Jocelyn in Cherbourg and make sure she didn't have a faulty wire somewhere in the house, one that was causing the lights to go on and off and that might be burning something that smelled reasonably like pipe tobacco. A call to her produced quick assurances that she had had the house checked for wiring problems last year and there were none. In retrospect, I think had I been in her position I'd have had less confidence in my electrician and more concern about the problem...unless I suspected the real cause to be something else.

Anyway, she cheerily wished us a great vacation, said she looked forward to seeing us soon, and rung off.

I still was feeling uncomfortable at the prospect of sleeping there, especially since Marnie was beginning to pick up feelings about the place. Marnie by profession is a schoolteacher and, contrary to what some people might believe about a person with a psychic talent, is a very practical person. I listened to her carefully as she started "scanning" the house. Within a few minutes, I was getting impressions myself—of an Englishman wearing a smoking jacket and sporting a small, manicured mustache. When it was pointed out to me that the image sounded remarkably like the late actor Leo G. Carroll (who had once played host to a couple of very trendy young ghosts in the *Topper* television series), I decided that my

pattern-seeking mind was getting the best of me.

Throughout the next days, we were too busy to notice anything out of the ordinary. We took one-day trips on Britishrail to see Glastonbury, Stonehenge and other places. Each day the living room light was turned off as we left the house. Reliably, it would be burning for us when we returned home in the evening. There was never any other light involved and by the end of our week there, I wasn't sure if we were dealing with a wiring problem or a very thoughtful ghost.

On the night before we were due to leave Yorkshire for London, we had all gone off to far-flung corners of the house to rest from our day's trip or to read books scavenged from Yorkshire bookshops. I was curled up on the downstairs sofa reading a volume on standing stones when I came across a passage about Glastonbury (a place to where my friends—especially my friend Carmen—and I are very drawn). I elected to go upstairs and show the passage to her.

AN ELECTRIC-LIKE FEAR

As I reached the fifth stair, I was—as in one of those bad ghost stories—literally unable to move. I still remember very clearly what the sensation felt like. At that point on the staircase, I was shot through with what I would later describe to my friends as an "electric-like fear." Every other fear episode I've had in life was the result of objective stimuli giving me the subjective response of withdrawal or goose bumps or running shrieking in the opposite direction. But this sensation didn't originate inside me, at least in the usual sense. It wasn't a response to anything I could see or smell. A feeling I can only describe as *terror* just pounced on me from out of nowhere.

I had to move quickly downstairs—I definitely was *not* walking up them. I sat down on the sofa, trying to find a quick and dirty logical reason for what had just occurred. I soon abandoned that campaign—I just wanted to stop trembling. Images of my ghostly friend in the smoking jacket crowded in; I still don't know if the image was born of convenience or actual intuition.

At that moment, my friend Carmen came walking down the stairs, looking like she had just awakened and was rather cranky because of it. "Did you wake me up?" she said. "I felt a bad pain in the side of my head and I had a feeling I should come down and talk to you."

I told her (without mentioning the passage in the book as the reason for my trip) of the experience I had just had on the stairs.

She gave me an odd look and said that the stairs "had felt just fine" to her. "But the weird part about the feeling I had about talking to you," Carmen said, "was that I felt it was connected to Glastonbury."

I showed her the passage in the book and we agreed that if it wasn't a "simple coincidence," we had either demonstrated some fairly dramatic telepathy or something bizarre was going on in that house.

NOT A SEANCE

We decided we would gather our friends together for a joint meditation/hypnosis session to unlock some intuition about what was transpiring. We often gathered together at home for such occasions—on birthdays, during problem periods, or just for fun. We're all open-minded concerning parapsychology and mysticism and enjoy engaging in such sessions. This was the only time when it felt vitally necessary to attempt one.

I should point out that we weren't trying to conduct a seance or anything of the kind. We're also all very rational, pragmatic people. Two of us (Tina and myself) are writers and the other two (Carmen and Marnie) are respectively an artist and, as mentioned before, a schoolteacher. We had seen a lot of friends of ours go overboard with such things—trance channeling, Walkins from Atlantis and the like. Our meditation sessions, by contrast, were always kept very firmly grounded.

The fifth participant in our meditation, the house, had been built over two centuries before. It had at one time been the servants' quarters to a large estate that had long ago burned down. A succession of very normal working class families had lived there through the years. We didn't know any other details.

We chose the living room, since our helpful "ghost"—if that was what it was—had been playing with the light there. After fussing with the current adapter, we got the tape player working and started up the hypnosis tape we always used. We all chose pieces of sofa or floor to sit in or lay down on and Carmen, who was closest to the light switch, turned it off.

I was also close to the light switch. Carmen was in the chair just across from me. I trust her implicitly, but even if I didn't, I could make out her image in the darkness (and she could see me) and we all would have easily heard footsteps on the old, noisy, wooden floors.

As we sat in the dark, the tape started with dulcimer music and the sounds of ocean waves. It

occurred to me distantly that it was the perfect mood music for a haunted English house and we were probably setting ourselves up with atmosphere. But my rational side was shut up by the beginning of the hypnotic instructions, impressed against the darkness and silence.

As the taped hypnotist initiated a relaxation exercise, the living room light abruptly came on. I looked across at Carmen and she was looking over at me and we were both blinking from the sudden attack of light. Tina and Marnie sat up quickly.

We quickly ascertained that no one had walked like a fly across the ceiling and switched the light on with a toe. We were only slightly shaken by the event, chalking it off to our old friend the "probable electrical surge," albeit a propitiously timed probable electrical surge.

Once again, the light was switched off. Carmen, not surprisingly, decided she'd rather use the opposite end of the room. So we all settled in once again and started up the tape. This time the taped hypnotist made it all the way through the relaxation exercise before the light flashed on again.

A FLASH FROM THE SPIRIT

We were now really concerned. In the six evenings we had spent in the house, we had never had the light flash on and off like this. In the last three evenings, one of us had taken to sleeping on the downstairs sofa, too. The occurrence of the incident with what we were attempting to do was just too significant.

THE LIGHT WENT OUT

"So, are you a man or a ghost?" Carmen barked back at it, really irritated. The light stayed on. "If you're a ghost," she added, "turn the light out." As everyone of us in that room that night will attest, at the moment after she asked the question, the light went out.

Thoughts of the nearby Holiday Inn now seemed wonderfully warm and homey. But then I could just picture four American women walking into the Holiday Inn babbling about ghosts. They have a dim enough opinion of us over there, I decided. I also tried to keep in mind that this was the home of a friend of mine and that she lived there quite happily.

So we all moved to the center of the living room, our attention on the light. Deciding we had an electromagnetic analog to a Ouija board, I opted to ask some questions.

"Let me verify," I said. "If you're really a ghost, turn the light on." Again, as we all will attest, the light flashed on.

We proceeded to grill "the

ghost" for over a half hour. Whatever it was, it performed like a champ, "answering" our inquiries with amazing consistency. We even threw it a curve, asking it to "flash twice" to confirm an answer it had given us earlier. It flashed the light twice.

We went on to more complex questions using serial light flashes. It affirmed that there was a spirit world and conveyed that it was a little boy who had lived in the house a century ago. There were many other spirits in the house, it maintained.

By now I had little doubt that we were communicating with something conscious, even if it was only our own minds. There was a definite pattern to the lights that responded quickly to our questions. We weren't, to my mind, drawing patterns from unconnected electrical surges: the lamp flashed on in quick succession to all our inquiries.

By 1:00 A.M. we were all too tired to talk with any ghost, no matter how interesting. We bid our "visitor" good night, thanked it for the conversation, and all set off for bed. I decided I would rather take my chances with the lamp ghost than face going up those stairs once more.

The light did not flicker once during the night. I'm a very light sleeper on the best of occasions and only slept fitfully that night. I would have noticed had it come on. Throughout the next day, the lamp did not turn on by itself once.

I HOPE HE MADE IT

On our last day, we all gathered in the living room and mentally led the little poltergeist in the lamp toward the Light. We still weren't convinced it was anything other than group PK causing some interesting effects, but just in case, we certainly didn't want to leave the little fellow stranded on this plane. The guy on the stairs could find his own way back, I decided (I certainly didn't want to drum him up), but the little boy we helped. I hope he made it.

This incident is the single most memorable psychic episode I've ever had. Though it happened two years ago, it is all still very clear in my memory. Jocelyn, the owner of the home, has since verified that she has never witnessed any similar occurrence with the lamp in the house. As of this writing, there has been no other reported episodes in the house.

Tina and Marnie returned a few months ago. The stairs were silent and the lamp performed as lamps are meant to do. And Jocelyn still lives there quietly —at least that's what she claims.

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ASTRO ALMANAC

By Anne Lyddane

The best astrological days to participate in the following activities during January 1992. Combines Sun, Moon and Planetary Aspects with Sign Positions.

Apply for a job:
3, 6, 8, 13, 22, 28

Ask for a raise or promotion:
8, 10, 22, 27, 30

Ask for credit or a loan:
4, 6, 8, 13, 27, 31

Buy antiques or jewelry:
3, 4, 5, 10, 13, 27

Buy a car or have repairs done:
4, 8, 10, 13, 28, 30

Buy a permanent home:
4, 5, 22, 27

Buy real estate for speculation:
3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 28, 31

Consult a physician:
8, 10, 13, 22, 27

Cut hair for added thickness:
4, 6, 10, 22, 28

Cut hair to increase growth:
1, 3, 8, 13, 27

Cut hair to retard growth:
5, 15, 16, 31

Entertain:
3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 13, 28

Fishing:
4, 7, 10, 14, 22, 27

Gardening:
3, 4, 5, 10, 13, 31

Hunting:
3, 5, 8, 10, 22, 27

Marry for happiness:
1, 4, 6, 13, 27, 31

Meditation:
4, 5, 10, 22, 27

Mow lawn to retard growth:
5, 6, 22, 31

Permanents, hair coloring:
3, 5, 8, 13, 28

Purchase electronic equipment:
4, 22, 27

Purchase major appliances:
8, 10, 13, 27, 31

See dentist for extractions:
10, 13, 23, 27, 30

See dentist for fillings:
6, 22, 28, 31

Sell home, property, possessions:
4, 5, 8, 10, 13, 28

Sign important papers:
3, 6, 8, 13, 22, 27

Speculation/Gambling:
3, 4, 10, 22, 27

Sports activities:
5, 8, 13, 31

Start a weight loss program:
1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 13, 28

Stop a bad habit:
4, 10, 13, 27, 30

Travel by air:
8, 10, 27, 28

Travel for business:
4, 6, 8, 13, 22, 31

Travel for pleasure:
3, 5, 10, 28, 30

Mysteries of the Bell Witch

The strange spirit was unique in the history of Spiritualism. It sounded like other people, repeated sermons and physically affected people—including General Andrew Jackson!

By Jose M. Feola, Ph.D.

It is not my intention to do an exhaustive, scholarly study of the case, but just to analyze what happened in Robertson County, Tennessee, between John Bell, his family and a powerful entity who became known as the Bell Witch or Spirit. The occurrences took place between the years of 1817 and 1821, with a short recurrence, previously announced by the Spirit, seven years later in March 1828.

The Witch/Spirit was quite human-like in her feelings. She had a profound hatred for John Bell—which culminated in his death, presumably as a result of the Witch's actions. She interfered with Betsy's (John's daughter) intended marriage to Joshua Gardner. She expressed tender love, affection and respect for John Bell's wife, Lucy, whom the Spirit always called Luce. The reasons for the Spirit's hate for John Bell and opposition to Betsy's marriage to Joshua were never known. Her love and affection for Luce were perhaps more understandable since Lucy never antagonized the Spirit and always spoke kindly and goodheartedly to it. However, there seemed to be a recognition by the Spirit of a higher-developed soul in Lucy's body.

The Spirit was always truthful.

She always said she was going to punish and kill John Bell, that nobody would be able to stop her. She said that Betsy should give up the idea of marrying Joshua Gardner or suffer the consequences. Betsy was finally convinced that this was the best course of action. The Spirit was consistent in her love and attention for Luce, in her respect for some members of the family, as well as disrespect for people who pretended to know how to get rid of her and were scared away promptly.

THE SPIRIT IS DISCOVERED

It began 12 to 15 years after the Bells had arrived in Tennessee. They were well established and enjoying the happy country life of the time. Two of the children, Drewry and Betsy, saw "strange creatures for which they could not account." Following these apparitions, Betsy saw what she thought to be a woman strolling about the orchard. The apparition disappeared after Betsy spoke to her. Soon the family began hearing strange noises in the house as "if someone was knocking at the doors and windows; also as if wings were flapping against the ceilings." The cause of the noises could not be found.

The noises became louder inside the house. "The sounds in the bedrooms appeared to be such as would be heard if the beds were suddenly and roughly pulled apart, to which was added fighting dogs chained together, making a noise most deafening and exciting." The noises stopped when lights were flashed. Everything looked in order; the furniture was intact.

Charles Bailey Bell, M.D., great grandson of John Bell, wrote, "These mild demonstrations continued for a year or more, increasing until the house fairly shook as if in a storm, and the noises could be heard at quite a distance."

At this time, John Bell developed a disease which affected his tongue and the muscles of his jaws; he had difficulties chewing and swallowing. Although these problems were attributed to the Spirit, they may have been caused by Bell's own nervous system. He thought it was time to seek help from trusted friends, who might help solve his problems. One of his best friends, James Johnston, was asked to come to the house and spend the night there. He and his wife came to the Bell home to pass the night. Mr. Johnston, "well known for his courage and Christianity," read a chapter from the Bible and prayed for his friends, after which he and his wife retired to their room adjoining Betsy's.

Soon after, "unheard-of noises began, worse than ever, invading Mr. and Mrs. Johnston's room, stripping the covers from their bed, laughing loudly in a derisive tone, causing Mr. and Mrs. Johnston to become highly frightened. To all entreaties and demands for a reason for all this there was no answer, as to why it was there or from whence it came, there was no reply but loud laughter."

Following the advice of Mr. Johnston, a number of selected good friends of Mr. Bell's came to help, trying to induce the Spirit to tell what it all meant and to leave the family in peace. From then on, friends and visitors were present in the house almost at all times until the Spirit left. The following phenomena were witnessed by many courageous people, well known for their honesty.

THE SPIRIT SPEAKS

The following passage in Dr. C. B. Bell's narrative is one that continues to haunt me. "After a few nights (after the Johnstons' visit) the Spirit voluntarily began to talk for the first time, beginning in almost a whisper. The first real talking was a repetition of Mr. Johnston's prayer and song given the first night he spent at the Bell home. So exact was this imitation, both in its repetition and sound of voice, it was said one could not tell it from Mr. Johnston's voice."

This adds at least two more mysteries to the abilities of this Spirit: how could she remember to perfection and how could she replay it to the point where people could not distinguish it from the real Mr. Johnston's performance?

The Spirit took over the Bell home and played host to neighbors and people from the surrounding country who came over as the fame and reputation of the Spirit increased.

...it enjoyed religious talks and quoted Scripture with complete accuracy; no preacher who came over could argue successfully with the Spirit...

Assuming a pious character, it enjoyed religious talks and quoted Scripture with complete accuracy; no preacher who came over could argue successfully with the Spirit who often corrected them in their interpretations of scriptural meanings, sometimes telling them of differences in translations and pointing out what she thought were the correct ones. In terms of singing, it joined in the

weekly prayer services "with a voice, the sweetness of which was unsurpassed." It also sang songs never heard before in that country, and that were never forgotten by those present.

The Spirit began watching all events occurring in the neighborhood. "Nothing was said or done of any moment that was not reported by the Spirit, and at once became well known far and wide. Under this espionage that community rapidly became a model in everything demanded of good citizens. The Spirit even knew the thoughts of those with whom it came in contact, and it did not hesitate to tell the evil thoughts of those so read at the Bell house."

By now, people were coming from hundreds of miles on horseback and in covered wagons to witness the Spirit's feats. The Bells never charged visitors for food and lodge, as long as the house would hold them. Some brought tents and stayed there for as long as they had to before satisfying their curiosity.

The Bells never ceased to ask the Spirit what it all meant and what she really wanted. Finally, it did answer: "I am a Spirit; I once was very happy, but have been disturbed." The voice was clear and it was understood by all present. It also said that it would remain there and continue worrying John Bell, finally killing him. John was punished "severely with blows and other physical methods." Some of the children were also punished by having their hair pulled, their jaws slapped, "leaving red finger marks on their faces."

The Spirit had great respect for John Jr., a man of powerful intellect and courage, who had no fear of the Spirit and who was able to extract information about past and future events to use in the best interests of his family and countrymen.

On a Sunday night, the Spirit repeated the sermon of Rev. James Gunn, preached at Bethel Methodist Church, with perfect accuracy, and imitating Rev. Gunn's voice so well that those present thought the Reverend must be talking. Rev. Gunn was present, and so was another preacher, Rev. Sugg Fort. One of the people present said, "Brother Fort, you have the advantage; your sermon was not heard." The Spirit at once repeated Rev. Fort's sermon and prayers in his voice and exact words, including hymns and other details, to the astonishment of all those present.

TRANSATLANTIC COMMUNICATIONS

An unnamed man from England came to visit the Bell home

continued on page 96

TRUE MYSTIC EXPERIENCES

By the Readers

A LIFESAVING HUNCH

By Nancy A. Weitendorf

It was the summer of 1989. My husband Matthew and I were living in my mother's house in North Olmsted, Ohio, while she (Lena Butts) lived with my grandmother, Velma Stout, who was getting old and frail.

The house stands on a small lot. There is a garage at the rear of the lot. Between my mother's property and the lot behind it are several very old trees. They are rather dirty and Matthew had climbed up on the garage several times to clean off the twigs and leaves that they dropped.

That summer we had decided to paint the garage. However, Matthew had to first cut down some long grass and weeds which had grown up fast during the summer. Matthew worked hard on it all morning, then stopped for lunch. When he went back to work, he declared he could finish it up in an hour or two.

I'd washed the dishes and was tidying up inside. Matt hadn't been out long when I suddenly felt that he should come in immediately. The thought came out of nowhere. I shrugged it off as silly. Matt could be stubborn. He wouldn't come in without a good reason. But the feeling persisted

Nancy A. Weitendorf

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and finally I gave up and asked him to come inside.

Just as I expected, he wouldn't budge. He wanted to get the job done so that we could paint the next day. I begged and pleaded, and finally he grudgingly agreed to come in for some iced tea. Just a quick glass, he said, and then he was going back to work.

We had barely gotten inside when there was a tremendous crash in the yard. We ran outside and were surprised to see that a huge limb had fallen off the tree behind the garage, and had landed right where Matt had been clearing away the tall weeds. If he had continued working, he might have been severely injured or even killed.

Matt always scoffed at my hunches in the past, but ever since that summer he listens to them. As far as he's concerned, one hunch saved his life!—*Oxford, OH*

I REFUSED TO FLY

By Matthew St. Clair, Jr.

When I was stationed in Vietnam in 1972 as a first lieutenant, I was ordered to fly from Saigon to Can Tho to give a radar and ground sensor class. As Captain Kitteridge gave me my marching orders for the next morning, the hair stood up on the back of my neck and a chill shuddered in my soul. I promptly refused, saying I

Matthew St. Clair, Jr.

would go in the afternoon or the day after, but I would not go the next morning.

The Captain ordered, bullied and threatened, but I refused. The feeling was far too strong to ignore, and I felt that even the risk of a military court martial was better than the disagreeable emotion I had about that flight. The other officer finally gave up, and told me to go when I damn well felt like it, but to get out of his office.

The next morning, that particular helicopter (a CH-47 Chinook) took off from Ton Son Nhut Air Force Base, and 15 minutes later was hit by a shoulder fired ground-to-air missile, killing all 33 Americans aboard. Had I ignored that strong feeling, my

sargeant and I would have made it 35 dead.—*Poulon, GA*

A BRUSH WITH TRAGEDY

By Kay H. Foster

During one week in August 1987, my sister Clementine and I received word that our sister in Arizona was ill. Clem decided to fly out to be with her, so we contacted a travel agent here in Fort Wayne, Indiana, for the most direct route.

Kay H. Foster

The agent recommended Northwest Airline's flight 255, leaving Sunday August 16, explaining that Clem would have to board the plane at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago as the plane wouldn't stop in Fort Wayne.

"It will proceed to Detroit, land, and from there, nonstop to Phoenix," she told my sister.

"Detroit!" Clem echoed, "I don't want to go to Detroit."

"But it's nonstop from there," the agent reiterated.

My sister told the agent she'd consider it.

Our family has always received psychic impressions and listened to them, but never have all of us received such a strong, nagging doubt and uneasiness about a trip, although Clem has flown many times.

Up until the last two days, she was still unsure and asked her daughter what to do.

"I wouldn't go," she told Clem. "It doesn't feel right."

Clem called the travel agent and cancelled.

Nothing except the strange foreboding could have kept her from the flight. Clem's daughter and her boyfriend attended a flea market in Chicago on Sunday morning, passing right by O'Hare.

All of us listened to the news that evening, half expecting to hear something. Our agonizing fears were realized when we heard of the terrible, fiery crash of Flight 255 on take-off from Detroit. Out of 155 passengers, there was only one survivor—a small girl protected from the flames by her mother.

We felt a deep, personal horror

and devastation with the tragedy, ruled the second worst in the nation's history, yet we were equally relieved that, because of our psychic impressions, my sister was not on Flight 255.—*Fort Wayne, IN*

HEART ATTACK

By Virginia M. Voris

My husband, Emil, was going hunting in Payson, Arizona, at

Virginia M. Voris

the end of October 1977.

Emil and our son-in-law, Wally Hutzler and three other men were with a friend, Donald Mayville, at his cabin in Tonto National Forest. They all pitched in and cleaned up the pine cones around the cabin, and after supper played poker. They planned to go hunting the next day, the beginning of deer season.

That night, October 27, 1977, I watched the ten o'clock news and was preparing for bed. I started to pull the covers down on the bed when a man's voice said, "Your husband had a heart attack." At the same instant I saw a man sitting under a big tree. The whole thing only took a second or two and I wasn't sure I heard or saw what I thought I had.

I pulled the covers down, got into bed and went to sleep around a quarter to eleven.

The ringing phone awakened me at one o'clock in the morning. It was my daughter, Peggy, Wally's wife.

She asked, "Are you sitting down, Mother?"

I thought, "Oh, what happened?" I sat down.

She said, "Mother, Wally just called me. Daddy's had a heart attack. He's doing all right. He's in the Payson hospital."

She then informed me that I wasn't to go to Payson until 11 o'clock the next morning. They didn't want me driving those dangerous, curvey mountain roads at night.

Emil was in the Payson hospital for the next two weeks.

After he was home, I told him about my experience. He said when he finished helping

clean up the pine cones he had sat down under a big pine tree. He also started having his heart attack about 10:45.

He had five heart by-passes in December 1981 and is doing well.—*Mesa, AZ*

WEDDING FORETOLD

By Pamela Gibson

I have always had dreams that either foretell the future or have

Pamela Gibson

symbols in them warning me of something that is about to happen.

On the night of September 22, 1983, I had a dream at my home in Ecorse, Michigan. My family had always been close, and at the time of the dream, all of us children (ten in all) were grown and had moved out of my parent's home.

I awoke the next morning to the sound of the phone ringing. It was my father, Raymond Odum. He was excited and told me he had good news; I would never guess what. Well, I fooled him when I replied, "Yes, I know that Jo had gotten married in Los Angeles the night before."

He couldn't believe I knew and demanded to know who had called me and told me the news. I reported to him that I had just woke up and had dreamed last night that our whole family had attended her wedding.

My father was astounded because my sister had eloped. No one in our family had attended her wedding or even knew of her plans to marry.

At the time she was wed, my sister had lived in California and I had not talked to her for some time, yet somehow in my own way I was able to attend her wedding that I didn't even know about—the very night it took place.—*Trenton, MI*

THE BEST FROM OUR PAST

For over 40 years FATE has been sharing sworn statements of people attesting to a true mystical experience. Each month we will be presenting one of our favorite stories from a past issue. The following article originally appeared in May-June 1951. It is called...

I AND MY COFFIN

By June Graham

I was lying asleep by my husband's side when a hand shook my shoulder and said, "Wake up!"

I looked drowsily at my husband but he was sleeping soundly. Thinking he had been talking in his sleep, I drifted off again ...Again that hand on my shoulder and again the warning, "Wake up!"

I looked at my husband again but he continued to sleep. I was puzzled and a little frightened. I came wide awake. When I had quieted down somewhat I snuggled up to my husband again and tried to sleep. And again a hand roughly grasped my shoulder and demanded, "Wake up!"

Thinking my husband must really be awake and was just teasing me, I sat up quickly and began to tickle and shake him. But as he roused himself to wakefulness I saw that he had not been feigning.

Just as I started to explain what had happend, we suddenly saw an eerie light floating over our heads. Then it thickened and took form. To our utter dismay we saw that it was a white coffin with one side open—and I was in that flower-laden coffin!

We sat in bed terrified, clinging to each other, sobbing our hearts out.

The coffin, spotlighted by an unearthly glow, slowly circled the room. It gradually rose higher until it neared the ceiling. Then it slowly dissolved. I was hysterical, unable to sleep, sobbing the night away.

I was convinced that I was about to die, although I was in excellent health. I spent the next few days putting my house in order—even to writing instructions about my last wishes. The days were a ghoulish nightmare, never to be forgotten. I turned a deaf ear to my husband's efforts to reassure me. Gradually, however, the strain lessened. Several days had passed and nothing had happened. I could amost breathe again.

On the fifth day it happened. About noon I suddenly had a terrible chill. It quickly turned into a raging fever. My husband came home from work to find me raving in delirium. He called a doctor hastily who summoned an ambulance and ordered me into a hospital. I had an emergency operation—"One chance in a thousand," the doctor said.

I lived, of course. Yet I was on the borderline for a whole week. Once I was even pronounced dead.

I cannot possibly understand or explain this experience, but even now it fills me with horror as I write—*Chicago, IL*

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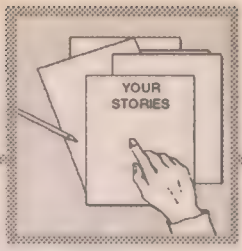
MY PROOF OF SURVIVAL



By the Readers

GRANDMOTHER IS WATCHING

By Sandy Hunt

My grandmother, Eldora Bowser, lived with us in the family home in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. When I was a child my life was filled with the love, guidance and wisdom of this gentle, white-haired lady.

Grandmother was an amputee who was confined to a wheelchair. At all hours of the day or night you could hear the floorboards of the old house creak as she baked and cooked in the kitchen or roamed around the living room putting things away. Nothing else in the house made that exact sound. The dear lady's favorite fragrance was roses, and she was always surrounded by a cloud of that soft scent.

After my grandmother's death in 1966, my parents began renovating the house with the intention of renting the part which Grandma had lived in.

One day my father, Haymond Wickline, came running from that part of the house to the section that we were occupying. He was white as a sheet and obviously frightened. Following him closely was the sound of Grandmother Bowser's wheelchair and the scent of roses which soon became almost sickeningly strong.

Since that day, whenever anyone of us is depressed or in need of comfort, we hear her chair and

Sandy Hunt

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smell her roses.

And we always know if she is angry with us because the aroma becomes overpowering. It seems Grandma Bowser is still watching over us.—*Simi Valley, CA*

"WILBUR, WAIT FOR ME!"

By Ruth Turnstall

My husband, a U.S. Navy Chief, used to tell me, "Let's not ever say goodbye—our love will last forever and a day." I believed him and for years after his tragic death I would turn from problems I was facing and pray, "Wilbur wait for me!" It gave me the boost I needed at the moment.

Ruth Turnstall

Then one day as I sat alone in my living room in Yucca Valley, California, I experienced a strange, out-of-this-world vision. I seemed to be parking my car at a tropical military base and a tall man in navy tans stepped close and politely told me to follow him.

I knew it had to be Wilbur, so I left the car and followed him across the lot and up the steps of what appeared to be a cantina or officer's club. There was a wide wooden porch along the front where sailors lounged around the bat winged doors—coming and going. Will just stood there, and I began to realize how alive everyone was. He turned to me and I put out my hands to touch him.

"You're alive!" I yelled and began feeling those solid flesh and blood arms, shoulders and chest. "Of course you're coming right home with me!" I decided out loud. He did not smile or offer to touch me. Instead, he said that I had to leave and implied I had to hurry.

"You do not need me," he tried to explain. "There is a woman here, and we enjoy being together."

I refused to leave, so he motioned to a group of sailors nearby. I recognized some of them as old friends as they picked me up and carried me back to my car. Startled, amazed and astonished I awoke back in my living room —alone.

I asked myself, did I have an experience—a vision—or some kind of subconscious message? However, it was with a sense of

relief when I decided to release the man I had been holding to a promise neither of us knew anything about.

I am a Christian believing in life after death somewhere somehow, but this experience gave me food for thought.

Much has happened during the many years since then. I even married again and love this man as much as I loved my first husband. But I can still close my eyes and see Will standing there amid surroundings he loved and feel that solid flesh and blood body in uniform, sending me back to my world.—*Wickenburg, AZ*

AUNT MARTHA

By Clyde McGoogan

My mother, Edna Liles, worked at the draft board during World War II so I lived with my grandmother, Carrie Melton, before starting school in 1943.

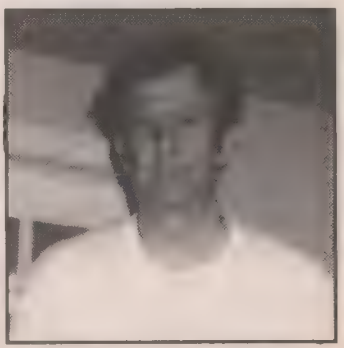
I went with my grandmother to visit a sick lady she referred to as Aunt Martha. We sat in the room with Aunt Martha, my grandmother on a chair and me on a low stool next to her. Several other relatives were also in the room.

Aunt Martha asked for water and someone propped her up and she drank through a straw from a glass which was held for her. While the women caught up on news of other relatives I felt left out sitting on my little stool. I looked about the room. Aunt Martha lay quietly on the bed while the women talked in the room and the men visited on the porch in this rural North Carolina home.

I saw Aunt Martha get up, look around, then leave through the screen door to the porch.

I tried to ask my grandmother how Aunt Martha went through the screen door without opening it, how she left but was still lying on the bed, and how she walked above the floor. Each of my questions was met with a swat of my grandmother's purse.

A few minutes later a man,



Clyde McGoogan

probably a doctor because he had a stethoscope, had checked Aunt Martha's eye and heart and then pulled the sheet up over her head.

Although I've experienced two similar incidents since this

one almost 50 years ago, I remember it vividly. It convinced me that there's something more than the physical body.—*Quinby, SC*

DAD CAME LOOKING

By Sarah Ballantyne

On July 22, 1986, I saw my dad, Joe Hirshfield, at a bingo hall in Lancaster, California. What's so wrong with that? My dad passed away July 7, 1985 in his sleep at the age of 85.

My mom, Steva Hirshfield, 94, had been ill and we all thought she would be the one to go first.

When Dad died, my husband David and I moved in with my mom. She gradually got to the point that she had to have 24-hour care so a nursing home had to be found. The nursing home was a 45-minute drive from where we lived. David would stop in to see her on his way to work every morning, and I would go see her 5 hours a day.

I was seated 20 feet from the front door which was opened in the evenings in the summer when I saw my dad walk in. My girlfriends asked what was wrong. I was white in the face, and I told them I had seen my dad. I went to the front door to see if I could find him, and he had disappeared. I went back to my seat and played the remaining games, but told my friends that my mom had passed away.

When I got home the phone was ringing from the nursing home telling me that she had indeed passed away. I firmly believe that my dad had come looking for me and to tell me to go home.—*Marysville, WA*

OUR LANDLORD'S GHOST

By B.J. Mann-Buchanan

When I was eight years old, during the summer of 1945, my family moved into a large, Queen Anne type mansion. For us the move was exciting, following three years of occupying very cramped quarters—a tiny apartment—the only accommodations my father had been able to find during our war-time move to Ohio.

Our new home had been vacant for more than 20 years, shut up since the demise of its latest owner. His daughter, a professor at the same university as my dad, leased the place to us.

Elated over the elegance of our new home, our excitement lessened somewhat when we opened the front door to confront a life-sized portrait of the last owner, Mr. "S.", laid out in his casket. The portrait also depicted baskets of flowers around the deceased, who lay in his coffin before the fireplace in the living room. The baskets that had held the flowers were still in place on the hearth.

An eerie feeling gripped us but we tried to ignore the stale air and the lingering influence of this long-ago death.

Shrugging off the macabre painting, we found other relics relating to the death of the former landlord scattered throughout the house from the cellars to the attics. We got permission to dispose of these objects. The landlady apologized, explaining the house had been shut up following her father's funeral, and that he'd been so adamant that only worthy tenants should occupy the premises, she'd not tried to rent the house for fear he would return in a haunting rage. She stressed how fiercely protective her father had been of even the least of his possessions when he was alive.

In the process of discarding Mr. S.'s possessions, my brother and I found an outfit in a closet. It was a "safari" outfit complete with pith helmet, and we begged our parents to let us keep it.

One afternoon my brother and I dressed up and pretended we were big-game African hunters.

Later that evening our parents took us to the movies. When we returned, they told us we could have some ice cream before we went to bed. I went to the kitchen to get the ice cream and encountered a stern-faced old man in the back hall. The scowling stranger bore an uncanny resemblance to the portrait that had hung in the living room. Dressed in a pith helmet and the safari suit my brother and I had worn earlier in the day, the sallow-faced apparition glowered at me out of eyes that glistened like phosphorus.

To say that I felt evil emanating from his face is an understatement! Terrified, I beat a hasty retreat calling for my parents. I clung to them and together, we returned to the back hallway. It was empty!

The next day my mother was discussing what had happened (the pith helmet, along with its matching costume, had disappeared) with our next door neighbors, a family named Jackson who were long-time tenant farmers of the deceased. They said I described him to a T.

The neighbors felt he was a mean rascal, determined to hold on to anything that belonged to him in order to lord it over everyone else. They thought he'd probably been angered because we'd found his old clothes and were having fun with them.

Doubtlessly, he'd come back to take them away from us because that was the way he was! They said the jowly glower he had affixed on me with one of his eyes, the other shielded behind a monocle, was him to the last detail.

After that time, my parents were kind of spooked about the house, and we moved a year later to a smaller and more modern house with an air of pronounced relief. I never saw old man "S." again.—*Dayton, OH*

THE BEST FROM OUR PAST

For over 40 years FATE has been sharing sworn statements of people attesting to survival after the transition known as death. Each month we will be presenting one of our favorite stories from a past issue. The following article originally appeared in April of 1956. It is called...

MY CANINE GUIDE

By Louise Ray

My aunt Theresa Scatena had a friend whom everyone called Saint Cecelia because she was so religious. In 1925 Cecelia invited me to visit her in San Anselmo, California. She told me to be certain to call her first because she feared I might not find her little house nestled on the side of a hill.

I decided to surprise Cecelia, however. Alighting from the electric train in San Anselmo, I walked past a garage. Sitting in front of it was a large collie dog. He rose and walked beside me on the right. I love dogs but had not spoken to him.

Presently we came to a three-forked road. I decided to take the middle road but the dog stopped and sat gazing down the left fork. I walked about half a mile but felt I was wrong. I returned to the forks again and started up the road to the right, paying no attention to the fact that the dog still was gazing down the left fork.

I walked quite some distance, then returned once more to my starting point. The dog rose and walked slowly up the left road. Thinking he was going home, I followed him to ask his owner for directions.

When we had walked about three-quarters of a mile the dog stopped at a gate. Cecelia greeted me from the house steps and asked how I managed to find her. I said, "Your dog led me here."

"I have never seen that dog," she said.

Feeling grateful to the dog, I was reluctant to leave him without at least feeding him. We called him to the house, but he did not look at us and walked away.

Unable to forget the dog, I asked Cecelia to go to town with me so that I could thank the owner of the dog. She looked at me as if I were crazy and said, "I never saw a dog like that in town."

Later when I told Mother about the dog she said, "Why that was our dog, Jack. He took care of you children years ago —he still must be guarding you."—*Santa Rosa, CA*

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FATE REMEMBERS

What were you doing in June 1955?

Do you remember the man who smashed clouds?

If this doesn't jolt your memory, how about January 1981 or October 1987? Did ghosts really haunt the Tower of London, and does ESP really work in Las Vegas?

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continued from page 82

with the purpose, expressed only to John Jr., of solving this mystery. During his stay, which lasted several months, the Spirit performed extraordinary feats that "would satisfy the most skeptical of the absolute supernatural powers displayed."

During the time of his stay at the Bell's house, the Englishman was kept informed by the Spirit as to what was going on at home in England. The Spirit's information was always corroborated by letters received later. To the many demonstrations the Spirit gave him, a last one was added. The Spirit asked the gentleman what message he wanted to send to his family at home, something that had not been done before. The Englishman said, "Tell them that in my opinion, never since the world was created have men seen and heard the marvelous things I have witnessed during the past three months." Within three hours, the Spirit came back and, imitating the gentleman's brother's and mother's voices, repeated what they had said on listening to the Spirit's talk. Then, in the voice of the mother, said: "Tell him not to stay any longer; he has heard and seen enough, and we do not want any more visits like that here."

On arriving home, the Englishman wrote to John Jr. that all that had been said was correct.

STRENGTH

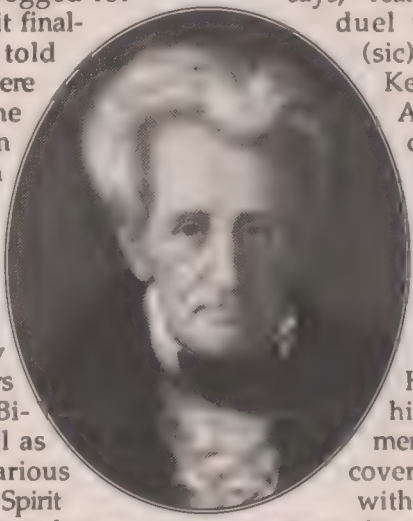
On several occasions, the Spirit displayed tremendous strength.

One of John Jr.'s best friends, Frank Miles, was one of the most powerful men around. He was about six feet two inches tall, weighed about 250 pounds, and had a grip with his hands "that would crush an ordinary man's hands." Frank was intent on catching the Witch in his grip and crush it. To that effect, he stayed frequently overnight at the Bell home. Mr. Miles related that on extremely cold nights "all the bed covers were quickly jerked off; the covers which he caught and held were torn wide apart and in pieces, leaving only small pieces in his hands." On two occasions the bedtick was snatched from under him and the bed rolled across the room; he could not grasp the Spirit but he said he felt "the most forceful blows about his head and face he had ever had." The Spirit kept laughing and saying, "he was sure a strong man and could knock the wind out of air, but not dangerous in a tussle with a Spirit."

John Ball's slaves had several encounters, rather unpleasant, with the Spirit. Harry, a young man, was in charge of kindling the fires in the mornings. After being late a few mornings he was

told he must get in earlier. The next morning he was late again. As he was on his knees trying to blow the coals into a blaze, "suddenly pieces of his kindling began beating him all over the body; finally he was jerked up across a chair and given such a beating that the blows were heard all over the house." As he was mercilessly beaten, he screamed and begged for his life. The Spirit finally stopped and told Harry that if he were ever late again he would be beaten to death and then thrown into the fire. He was never late again.

The Spirit was always kind to Mrs. Bell. Lucy and her neighbors participated in Bible study as well as discussions of various church affairs. The Spirit "readily took part and when refreshments were served it always brought in nice fruits coming from they knew not where, but were simply dropped on the table or in their laps with the invitation to eat them."



General Andrew Jackson

THE MYSTERY OF GENERAL JACKSON

General Jackson is mentioned in Betsy's recollections of the Spirit's feats. The General knew John Jr. and he must have heard of the Spirit's performances.

The date when his encounter with the Spirit took place is not precise. From my research into General Jackson's movements in Tennessee I believe he must have visited John Bell's home around October-November 1818. Miller says, "Years after his famous duel with Dickerson (sic) near Adairville, Kentucky, General Andrew Jackson came over a portion of the same road on his way to Robertson County to satisfy his mind as to what he had heard of the Bell Witch. He brought with him several horsemen and a four-horse covered wagon, laden with provisions, bedding and tents, prepared to spend a week. When within a few hundred yards of the Bell home, and driving along a nice smooth road, some member of the Jackson party spoke slightly of the Witch, the wagon wheels suddenly refused to move.

"The driver whooped and whipped, but the big strong team

seemed powerless to move the wheels. After they had worried some time, a sharp metallic voice rang out from the bushes, saying, "All right, General, let the wagon move on, I will see you again tonight." And it kept its promise. The Witch was out in full force, singing, swearing, pulling covers from the beds, slapping and pinching pretty Betsy Bell till she screamed with the pain. The Jackson party did not sleep a wink, and when morning came they were ready to go home, with no thought of even unfolding their tent.

"Nashville friends, knowing the intentions of the General's trip, and also his previous skepticism as to the existence of the so-called Witch, were surprised to see him back so soon and began plying him with questions as to what he saw and heard at the Bell home, to which he replied, "By the eternal, I saw nothing, but I heard enough to convince me that I'd rather fight the British than to deal with this torment they call the Bell Witch."

In Betsy's recollections, other details of General Jackson's visit were revealed. In Jackson's party there was a man who claimed to be a real "Witch tamer, and he thought no Witch would appear while he was present. He dared the Witch out, hoping to use his pistol to hit her with a silver bullet he said he had loaded the pistol with. As the General was beginning to be impatient at the Witch's delay to appear, "suddenly the braggart jumped from his chair, grabbed at the seat of his trousers, and shouted, "Boys, I am being stuck by a thousand pins."

"A voice spoke out, "I am in front of you; shoot." The man drew his pistol and tried to shoot, but it would not fire." Then the Spirit began pulling the man's nose so hard he thought he was going to lose it. He ran away with all his speed toward the wagon, yelling all the way, as General Jackson roared with laughter and told John Bell he had never seen or heard of anything so funny and mysterious, and would like to stay a week, which he was invited to do.

"John Jr. saw General Jackson several times during the years following the visit, but as was his custom, he did not mention the visit to the General."

THE SPIRIT KILLS JOHN BELL

The final attack on John Bell began on the morning of October 20, 1820. Something happened when he and his son Richard Williams were at the hog pens, several hundred yards from the house. In John Jr.'s words, "On their return to the house I helped my father to bed; his shoe strings were broken, his feet had bleeding gashes

on them; his face was livid in spots as from blows; his eyes were red and watery, as though he had received punches in both eyes; his face was contorted and twitching; he still complained of pain all over his face, in his eyes and about his head." John Bell never recovered after this punishment. His doctors prescribed medicines about which the Spirit kept saying they were worthless, that John was going to die, and that it was causing his death. On the morning of December 19, he was discovered unconscious. Dr. George Hopson, Mr. Bell's physician, was sent for, and he arrived in less than two hours. As John Jr. looked for the three medicines he had been given his father, he found out that all of them were gone, and "in their place was a dark bottle containing a brown fluid which none of us had ever seen before. Frank Miles, John Johnston and Alex Gunn each looked at it. Frank had seen all the medicines we had given and he at once said, "The damned Witch did this." The voice of the Spirit was heard, saying with great satisfaction, "He will never get up. I did it." It said it had given John a dose that would cause his death. When Dr. Hopson arrived, he said he did not know about this vial, and suggested to test it on a cat. Alex Gunn caught one of the cats, and as he held its mouth open, John Jr. administered some of the potion. The cat soon began having convulsions and died.

We must persist. We must hammer on the walls of inattentive scientists until they understand that a true new world is waiting to be uncovered, opened up to our children and grandchildren with just the same effort we use to study physics, biology or chemistry.

John Bell never regained consciousness. The end came on the morning of December 20, 1820. "The Spirit talked as if it enjoyed the scene of father's death. It laughed and sang and told us it would be at the funeral; then it quit talking."

Before departing, the Spirit had several conversations with John Jr., and gave another demonstration of physical character. It made tracks in the snow that John Bell's old boots fit exactly.

One evening, as the family was sitting around the fire after

dinner, a ball like a cannon ball rolled down the chimney and out into the room, bursting like a smoke ball. The Spirit then said, "I am going, and will be gone seven years. Good-bye to all."

According to John Bell Jr.'s recollections, the Spirit came back in March 1828, and without any preliminaries began to talk in a voice that John Jr. recognized at once. The Spirit gave long speeches dealing with religious, philosophical and even political questions concerning the future of the United States. These were not made public.

LIKE NOTHING ELSE

What do we have to learn from the examination of the Bell Spirit case? To answer this question one would have to examine experimental findings as well as theoretical developments in PK research. The interested reader is urged to refer to the references at the end of this article.

The Bell Witch/Spirit case does not fit any existing theory. The Spirit showed total command of clairvoyance, telepathy and PK.

Every time one sees displays of great force in the production of a variety of physical phenomena, one wonders where the necessary energy comes from. The Spirit at the Bell house stopped General Jackson's horses, beat a big man, and several slaves, produced speech patterns, brought food and the poison that killed John Bell—how? In his evaluation of PK theories, Scott Rogo concluded: "I don' t think we shall ever understand PK if we continue to believe that there is only one *type* of PK force common to biological life."

I agree. This needs to be extended to differences between human-PK and Spirit- or Guide-PK. It seems that the amounts of energy available to humans is limited, while spirits have access to unlimited amounts of energy.

REFLECTIONS

Perhaps one of the reasons parapsychology is making very slow progress is that it has abandoned the study of the grand phenomena—levitation, apports, apparitions, poltergeists—for laboratory experiments of the statistical type which mostly repeat what we have already known for some time.

We must persist. We must hammer on the walls of inattentive scientists until they understand that a true new world is waiting to be uncovered, opened up to our children and grandchildren with just the same effort we use to study such subjects as physics, biology or chemistry. Science only attends to the needs of this life, leaving all preocupations about an afterlife to religion and metaphysics.

The only science that can bridge the gap between materialistic science and spiritual life is parapsychology.

When I taught an introductory course on parapsychology at the University of Minnesota, I proved that it was possible to blend the knowledge and the tools given us by the hard sciences with the facts collected by psychical researchers, as well as various religions, and practicing psychologists, psychiatrists and even physicists and mathematicians. After three years of experimental activity it lost support and we left, forced by our need to support our families.

What an opportunity lost! Perhaps Arthur Koestler, who had good friends there, would have left his fortune to a chair of parapsychology at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis instead of the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

QUESTIONS

If a new atom smasher is worth 10 billion dollars and the development of a new bomber is worth 70-plus billion dollars, how much is it worth to work on projects addressed to establish the reality of the soul, of spirit life, of psychical phenomena? I'd say it is worth *all* of the above put together. With the over-100 million dollars recently paid for two impressionist paintings we could do research that would *mean* something to human kind. In the meantime, important psi research labs, headed by the best talents we have produced in the last 30 years, are closing down for lack of funds.

I hope those who agree with me will raise their voices, write to Congressmen, to the President of the United States, to foundations, to millionaires, and that we will get research on these truly important and relevant subjects going.

NOTE:

Carrington and Fodor, Owen, and Rogo point to Betsy Bell as the cause of the poltergeist. The reason to punish and kill John Bell would have been sexual abuse.

To carry a revenge for such an extended period of time is unusual. If killing her father was the goal, she could have done it much faster and without the large number of witnesses.

Fraud is always possible, but this case would have required several confederates. I doubt Betsy Bell would have asked the slaves to hit themselves, the strong man to pretend he was being beaten by the Spirit, arrange for the pistol not to fire, General Jackson's driver to make the horses stall in spite of the whooping and whipping, etc.

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FROM THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE

By Paul Steiner

• It was at his 70th birthday party, held only a few weeks after he underwent heart by-pass surgery. Isaac Asimov, author of over 440 science and science fiction books, reveals that he hardly ever remembers any of his dreams on awakening. However, he remembered a recent one very vividly. He dreamed that he had died and arrived at heaven's gate and after giving his name to the "record keeper" was cordially invited in.

"But I don't belong here," he protested. "I'm not worthy nor qualified—I'm an atheist!"

"This decision isn't up to you," said the gatekeeper. "We decide who is worthy to be in heaven."

• While stones may not talk, it seems they can scream. German geologists have succeeded in making "rock language" audible to humans for the first time.

Scientists have long been aware of "rock rustle" or "rock roar," geologist Rolf Emmermann reported over Bavarian Radio, but the sound has been at frequencies inaudible to the human ear. Microsensors have made audible the creaking and cracking of a fragment of rock brought to the surface from a depth of more than 3100 meters. It's something like "Earth's primal scream," he said. Emmermann is the scientific coordinator of a drilling project.

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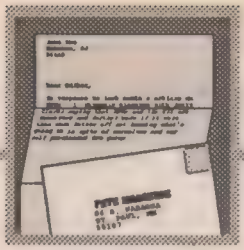

REPORT FROM THE READERS

By the Readers

LETTER OF THE MONTH

Each month, FATE editors choose an especially noteworthy letter to share with our readers. The writer of the letter receives $10.00 for his/her fine efforts.

I would like to thank Ronald L. Voreis for his *Return From Death* in the July 1991 issue of FATE. Many thanks to FATE for publishing this article.

If this article is true, and I believe it is, then my son also lives...my greatest comfort since his death in 1985.

I've saved Voreis' article and read it often to help keep me going. Thank you both very, very much!—*Marilyn C. King, Brasher Falls, NY*

MISSED THE ALMANAC

I always have my hair cut on the dates mentioned in the *Astro Almanac* and was so very disappointed to not to find it in the October issue.

My hair had become so thin I even considered wearing a wig. I started getting it cut on the dates suggested in the *Astro Almanac* for added thickness and my hair really did come in thicker and looks so much nicer. I had even suggested to my husband that he should have his hair cut on the special days.

We were both so disappointed and wish you would consider publishing this wonderful information in FATE magazine. I have been receiving FATE for many, many years and always enjoy reading it.—*A. Bicking, Coatesville, PA*

Editor's note: Astro Almanac *writer and respected astrologer Anne Lyddane is definitely a part of the FATE family. Due to causes beyond everyone's control we did not receive the data for the* Astro Almanac *in time for the October issue. As all of our readers have seen, however,*

continued on page 110

These columns of FATE are set aside each month for your comments. Send your neatly typed opinion of articles, columns, and reports of unusual occurrences to *Report From the Readers*, FATE Magazine, P.O. Box 64383, St. Paul MN 55164-0383.

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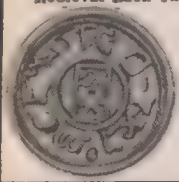

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BOOK REVIEWS

THE CASE FOR ASTROLOGY

By John Anthony West

Viking Penguin, New York

Hardcover, 1991, 527 pgs., $22.95

Many readers of FATE will probably want to consume this book with delicious relish. *The Case for Astrology* concisely reveals the facts (mostly facts) and fallacies of astrology. It also reveals the facts and fallacies (mostly fallacies) of those intellectuals better known as "The Skeptics."

With regard to the second instance, *The Case* carries within it the best up-to-date, blow-by-blow description of the methods and tactics used by the skeptics to "debunk" not only astrology, but anything else which comes within the sightings of their philosophical canons. Among other things, author West makes it redundantly clear that the skeptics are defending a point of view against which certain facts are inconvenient (some of us have understood this all along, of course).

Even so, West gives credit to the skeptics where it is due them, and so the book is not merely blindly prejudicial to the "case" against the skeptics. This impartial critique is refreshing since the skeptics themselves seldom bother to identify their justified skepticism from their roiling unjustified skepticism. So, for perhaps the first time we can find out some of what the skeptics are justified in being skeptical about.

With regard to the first instance—that of the case for astrology—West has done an extraordinary job as far as I, a 30-year researcher and student of astrology, am concerned. For one thing, he establishes the true origins of astrology—which mis-historical hearsay attributes to the Babylonians. In fact, the central theories of astrology are found complete before the historical Babylonia came into existence.

Herein lies one of the greatest mysteries of astrology. Wherever it is found in ancient times its central theories are found complete. No trace of a previous experimental period needed to erect that completeness can be found anywhere. Aside from

subsequent errata which have been superimposed over the primordial central theories, the primordial ancient central theories are as identical (and workable) today as they have been through approximately 6,000 years. *The Case for Astrology* proceeds in its substantive arguments to disclose astrological facts from the fallacies which many non-competent astrologers have heaped into it.

The Case is big book, not only in pages, but big in clarity of facts and big in ideas. For one thing, believe it or not, the scientific evidence supporting the central theories of astrology is now precise and unchallengeable. Scientistic "scientists" (and thus our obedient, scientistic media), however, remain hostile, and altogether work to continue what is tantamount to a cover-up of scientific evidence in support of astrology. For anyone really interested in the facts, this book is a good investment.—*Ingo Swann*

OTHER BOOKS OF INTEREST

THE GHOSTS OF FREDERICKSBURG
...and nearby environs
By L. B. Taylor, Jr.
L. B. Taylor, Jr.
Williamsburg, VA 23185
Softcover, 1991, 167 pgs., $10.00

Most privately printed books have a fairly amateurish appearance. Despite the author's writing talent (or lack of it), he or she generally has little or no knack for typography, layout, or book production. *The Ghosts of Fredericksburg* is a wonderful exception. Illustrated with photographs and drawings by Lisa M. R. Sullivan, the book has a very professional appearance.

The contents live up to the outward appearance, too. The author has presented 30 true tales of ghosts, poltergeists, and supernatural phenomena that have taken place in and near Fredericksburg. Although best known for the battle fought there in 1862, the town is quite a historic site even apart from the War Between the States. "George Washington slept here." Among the ghosts who haunt virtually every building in the town are more than a few colonial figures.

The tales are told in a simple and straightforward manner that is nevertheless entertaining, at times even spellbinding. The author maintains a neutral stance as to the reality of the phenomena; he is merely reporting them as objectively as possible. But there is no doubt, he says, that the people who have seen these apparitions are completely sincere.

If you are looking for a good shudder, you might do better to pursue the fictional ghost tales of

M. R. James; Taylor tells his stories in an objective manner without larding on the Lovecraftian adjectives or attempting to build a spooky atmosphere. Nevertheless, the altogether mundane facts in some stories are enough to raise a few hackles. The grisly and mysterious story of the transportation of the body of John Wilkes Booth to a hidden grave is a good example of this.

Aside from the scary aspect, the author's love of the architecture and furnishings of many of these historic buildings is manifest in his writing, as is his good will and respect for his sources.

The book is one of a series about ghostly manifestations in various parts of Virginia and is available from the author. All copies are autographed. This is a good and entertaining read for the casual browser as well as the serious student.—*David Godwin*

BIMINI BY THE SEA

Edward Baatz, Executive Producer
Destiny Productions, P.O. Box 20609, Sarasota FL 34276, 42 min, $39.95

While this video is an unabashed travelogue to promote tourism, it does feature some coverage of locations particularly appealing to New Age tourists and enthusiasts, such as the so-called "Bimini Wall." I am unaware of any other commercial tape which offers so many good views of the underwater stones just swimming distance from the north shore. They have been dismissed by skeptics as naturally formed beach-rocks, while others regard them as the fulfillment of a prediction made by the 20th century's most famous psychic, Edgar Cayce, in 1940.

During one of his "life readings," while in a light trance-state, he said that evidence of Poseidia, the Caribbean outpost of lost Atlantis, would be found at Bimini in 1968. Twenty-three years after his death, a private pilot noticed the sub-surface structure for the first time just where and when Cayce foretold that a remnant of Atlantean civilization would be discovered. Since then, the wall has been at the center of a controversy yet to be resolved to universal agreement. If it is a natural formation, the skeptics have yet to find a similar example of beach-rock anywhere else in the Caribbean (or in the world, for that matter) which forms a U or J shape, as does the 1,500 foot-long Bimini feature. The video's aerial shots show it running in two parallel rows at one point, making a convincing visual argument on behalf of manmade origins.

The underwater footage is clear and divers are included to provide scale, lending the structure the appearance of a genuine

archaeological find. The size, configuration and fitting of the immense stone blocks do indeed resemble pre-Inca cyclopean walls in Peru and similar massive fortifications on the opposite side of the Atlantic, along the coast of Morocco.

Some of the narration (via the erudite voice of David Ogden Stiers, formerly of *M*A*S*H** fame) is off base; Atlantis is described in Plato's *Timaeus* and *Critias*, not his *Republic*.

Worse, I missed any information about scuba facilities and diving arrangements. Clearly, the tape's visual elements are more valuable than its audio commentary.

Less well known than the wall, but hardly less intriguing, is the enormous image of a lemon shark fashioned from hundreds of white sand mounds and hemmed in by a thick mangrove forest on the western side of the island. Discovered by another pilot in 1989, it is the largest geoglyph on Earth. Its 500-foot length is visible only from the air—the shark at ground level is shapeless. Here, too, the video excels and affords a wonderful overview of the exquisite giant made by a mysterious people unguessed centuries ago.

There is also coverage of the "healing holes," fresh water springs of unusually high mineral content likewise mentioned by Cayce previous to their discovery in 1974 by Lester Hemingway, brother of author Ernest. There are a few shots of the wreck *Sapoma*, used as a target by the crews of the ill-fated Flight 19 before their one-way mission in the so-called Devil's Triangle 46 years ago.

Good as the photography is, some viewers may feel such brief coverage does not justify its cost. But short of visiting Bimini in person, this video is the next best thing.—*Frank Joseph*

DOWSING FOR WATER AND TREASURE

By Bob Ater

Bob Ater, Box 21, Monmouth IL 61462

120 min., $70.00 postpaid

This three-part film begins with an overview of the art of dowsing, the technique of locating water or other valuable elements through the use of various kinds of divining instruments. The author is a genial narrator with more than 20 years' experience as a dowser from which he draws anecdotes and relates his experiences.

Ater begins by showing viewers the tools of the trade and describes the history of each. Here are Y-rods, L-rods, wands, pendulums, even coat hangers or

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the astrological advice found on that page returned with the November issue.

When Llewellyn Worldwide, Ltd., purchased FATE, we wanted to do something special with astrology. Having limited space, however, initially prevented us from doing anything more than the standard Sun Sign astrology columns found in so many places. We believe that while such articles do help to increase interest in the study of astrology, they are actually more closely related to journalism than to true, in-depth astrology.

That is why we are very happy to be able to present to our readers more quality, astrological information, not merely based on the Sun sign, but on the positions of the Sun, Moon, relationships between the planets and the sign positions.

We at FATE support more scientific investigation of astrology, both by supporters and skeptics as long as neither have their minds closed to honest consideration of the data. In a future issue of FATE we will be giving some more information on astrology, including its history and basics in understanding how to interpret one's chart.

PSYCHIC JUNK MAIL

As a recognized, Kansas City intuitive, I find the whole affair of "psychic junk mail" (*Psychic Frontiers*, FATE, October 1991) appalling and offensive. The form letters which these purported psychics send to those on their mailing lists are deliberately misleading and, in my opinion, fraudulent to the utmost of the word. This type of scam also makes it very hard for true intuitives and researchers in the field of parapsychology to gain any real respect or credibility with the general public.

Caveat Emptor is a phrase which all people should keep firmly in mind when searching for an intuitive who has genuine spiritual insight. Good psychics are hard to come by, but they do exist. If you are seeking one I suggest that you work through some of the Spiritualist churches or parapsychology departments.

It is also very important to use a little of your own intuition when picking a psychic. If the person makes you feel uncomfortable, has a tendency to focus on death and doom, or recommends that you need to see him or her on a weekly basis then you need to start checking into a different psychic.

A client should also be aware that no psychic is God. They can't direct your future with magic or spells. Nor are their readings written in stone. We all have control over our own destinies. I believe that a really good

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chains. The earliest known dowsing devices were based on the lotus blossom and calyx, and appear in cave drawings and Egyptian hieroglyphs. This shape evolved to include star wands, ankhs and other sacred symbols, many later adopted as Christian symbols, such as the scrolled shape topping a bishop's staff. Lacking a specific tool, it is possible to dowse with one's bare hands, or even mentally, using no tools at all. Ater calls this using the mind compass.

From an historical background, the film takes a geological look at the sources of water. The illustrations used in this segment are truly exceptional—colorful and easy to understand. They show how water initially gets underground, how directions of underground streams are determined, how to differentiate between good and bad water sources, what kind of pressure produces springs, and more.

The second part of the film is about dowsing for treasure; i.e., things of value, whether hidden, lost, or buried. The final segment deals with water dowsing, the element we usually think of first, when dowsing is mentioned. Included with the film are several pages of printed material, including a how-to page to take along while working outdoors.

Ater invites viewers to join him in his avocation, and maintains that anyone can learn to dowse. I have reservations about "anyone" having the ability, having seen people attempt it. I believe it is a gift or talent, and not everyone is able to do it. However, this film is an interesting and helpful study of the subject. It is very down-to-earth, not at all high tech, and certainly inspirational.—*Connie Hill*

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NOTICE TO PUBLISHERS OF BOOKS, VIDEO AND AUDIO TAPES

FATE magazine is always looking for professional-quality books and tapes for review. Although we cannot review all submissions, we do consider everything that comes to us.

If you are thinking of submitting something for review, please keep in mind that as a general rule we will only review products which are professionally produced (no typewritten, photocopied manuscripts) or recorded and easily available through stores.

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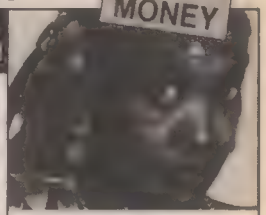

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psychic is there to guide and assist—not to control and drain your pocket dry.—*Colleen Caponetto, Grain Valley, MO*

Mr. Auerbach, thank you for writing this article. I, too, have received these letters in the mail telling me this particular psychic can provide all kinds of help for me, etc., etc.

This is what I do with them: I write back stating, "Your offer sounds intriguing, but I've received these offers before and have responded only to be disappointed. Therefore, if *you* will send *me* some very specific information, something only I would know or could use successfully, then I will send you the $19.95 you've requested...I just want to be sure this isn't another get rich quick scheme."

Then I further add, "If I don't hear from you I'll assume that this was just another get rich scheme." Now the ball is in their court.

I have done this twice now. Neither individual, who was supposed to be "my friend" and so "concerned for me" ever responded. Tells you something, doesn't it?

Thanks again for printing this article so that all of your readers can be made aware of these types of offers.—*Debbie Stinson, Lake Hiawatha, NJ*

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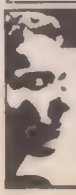
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SPOOK HILL

We were surprised to read the letter on Spook Hill by Betty Geismar in *Report From the Readers* (FATE, October 1991). It concerned the Lake Wales, Florida area where cars roll uphill when out of gear. They reported negative results on their visit—they didn't roll up hill.

My wife and I had more positive results. The car ahead of us had a ball rolling repeatedly up the hill when our car was out of gear. Our car made the uphill coast twice. We would have gone more than twice but cars were waiting.—*Glen and Barbara Speck, Coffeyville, KS*

Editor's note: In the Fall 1991 issue of Skeptical Inquirer *the story of Spook Hill is debunked. While they do mention the article*

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in the Wall Street Journal *which gave rise to descriptions of the site in* I See By the Papers, *all they do is say that it is an illusion. They ignored the part of the* Wall Street Journal *article which said that "The most recent U.S. Army Corps of Engineers survey of the Spook Hill area in 1952 shows that the hill is a gentle grade rising to about 125 feet above sea level."*

The writer of the article in the Skeptical Inquirer *investigated the site by bringing a carpenter's level to the site and "checking three different points on the slope." He also, apparently, has no experience in the topic he debunked other than being a computer programmer and a member of the Tampa Bay Skeptics.*

FATE supports good skepticism. It's a shame that Skeptical Inquirer *can't do any better than they have.*

CAN YOU HELP THESE FATE READERS?

You cannot know how much your magazine means to me. I am a person for whom the word weird was invented. All my life has been unusual and filled with the supernatural even though I have not been involved with Witchcraft or mysticism. The unusual is frightening for the majority of people. As a result I have had a lonely life.

I wish to receive letters from other readers who are like me. Maybe we could share some experiences—*Ruth Arnold, Rt. 1 Box 276, Hoboken GA 31542*

I would like to communicate with individuals whose lives have been transformed after a near-death experience, a "big" or numinous dream or an encounter with an angel. This research is for a Ph.D. dissertation on Life Transformations. —*D.J. Malone, P.O. Box 3683, Fayetteville AR 72702*

Some years ago I purchased a Biorhythm Instrument through a company which advertised in FATE. My instrument became lost and I would like to buy another but I do not see them advertised any more.

If anyone knows where I can buy this instrument please write to me. I'll refund the stamp.—*Charlotte Hoover, 388 Circle Dr., De Land FL 32724*

I am interested in hearing from people near me who are involved with the mental healing method of Mr. Ben O. Bibb as described back in the FATE issue of July 1980. I would like to learn of the progress and development in this method and how I could obtain instruction in same.—*William F. Lohman,*

4832 Brierwood Rd. So., Jacksonville FL 32257

I am writing a journal of ghost stories, legends and personal accounts of strange happenings from the Long Island [New York] area. I am especially interested in true stories and accounts. What I would like is for any FATE readers who have had an unusual ghostly experience while on Long Island, or know of anyone who has, to write to me about such an experience.

This journal will be presented in my college journalism club and any names and specific places will be held confidential upon request. Please, no stories or articles about the Amityville Horror because that has received too much negative publicity and has caused many Long Islanders to hesitate to share their ghost stories or legends.

Thanks to all FATE readers who can help me with this project.—*Catherine Bevona, 15 Nelson Rd., Scarsdale NY 10583*

Would someone please send me the current address of the Bigfoot Information Center? It was previously in The Dalles, Oregon, and they published the *Bigfoot Newsletter* in the '70s. Is that newsletter still in print?—*Sonia Hodge, 7761 LN Dr., Whitesburg TN 37891*

I am writing in the hope that one of your readers can help me. I have been reading FATE since 1971/72. I am referring to the letters written by Walter Elliot (May 1991) and Sharon Berry (July 1992). Both writers awoke and remembered strange words from their dreams.

I recently awoke repeating the word MESTHA. I have never heard nor seen this word before and would appreciate anyone with information on it contacting me.—*Ron Mickoski, 1125-555 St. Mary Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, R3C 3X4*

TEMPORAL INCONTINUITY

Perry Lake's Temporal Incontinuity theory (FATE, September 1991) certainly impressed me as being quite sound, even if it only partially represents the full scope of reality. Time's lack of linear uniformity indeed indicates that it is a creation of our minds rather than being an absolute physical law. However, I feel it may, in fact, be much more than either of these notions.

It seems to me that the inconsistency of time is very similar to the free will of individual humans. Just as people do not live in a perfectly repetitive fashion, neither does time. Perhaps this is because time is a multi-dimen-

tional entity with a mind of its own, thinking thoughts we cannot imagine.—*Robert S. Smith, Vancouver, B.C., Canada*

Mr. Lake's theory could be used to explain many occurrences, two of which I consider somewhat more than just cases of mislaying something.

In the '50s I received an allowance from my parents of 25 cents per week. One day I bounded down the steps out the front door and dropped my quarter. It fell between cracks in the concrete blocks. Try as I might I could not recover the coin. I sulked all the way into town with my parents and brother.

When we reached Woolworths I saw the *Classics Illustrated* comic book I so desperately desired. I reached into my trousers and withdrew a quarter, my lost quarter!

My parents, who had seen the quarter trapped in the block steps, asked me where I had gotten the money. When we got home, the quarter was no longer in the place it had become lodged—it was gone.

Years later the steps were torn down, but there was no quarter in the demolished mortar.

A few years ago my wife lost her engagement ring, worth about 1,000 dollars. It had been in her room while a down-and-out friend had spent some time there. The friend had terrible financial and emotional problems—her boyfriend had gotten her pregnant, deserted her, moved away and refused any responsibility. She had lost her job and was drinking heavily. She was even considering prostitution as a way to get money.

After looking everywhere, moving all the furniture and going through all of my wife's jewelry to see if it had accidentally become hidden, we finally accepted the conclusion that the friend had taken the ring to sell for money. My wife was heartsick, not for the piece of metal and a diamond, but because her friend had apparently done the deed.

That evening, my wife called me into the bedroom. There, on the top of the jewelry box sat the engagement ring! The box had been moved several times in our search and the ring would have fallen off when the box was opened while we were hunting for the ring.

The relief of finding it was nothing to the pale removed by knowing that her friend was not a thief. (And yes, we did give the friend enough money to help her along until she got back on her feet.—*Michael Hayes, Atlanta, GA*

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